

U.K. hopes U.S. will resume dialogue

BAHRAIN (R) — British Home Office Minister David Melfort was quoted Sunday as saying the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should not resort to violence in response to the U.S. decision to suspend its dialogue with the organisation. Melfort, an outspoken former Foreign Office minister, urged the PLO to resist calls by radical factions for attacks in retaliation for Washington's move last Wednesday. "The organisation should realise the fact that moderation is its only link with Washington," Melfort, who is on a Gulf Arab tour, told Bahrain's daily Al Ayyam in an interview. "I think it is important for the PLO which has gained major international recognition, a thing that was not possible before, to take lessons from what has happened," Melfort said. Asked what he meant by lessons, he said: "I think the PLO should not allow any act that takes it back to the previous situation of direct involvement in terrorist attacks." Melfort said the United States had a vital role in any Middle East settlement "and it was important to maintain dialogue with all parties involved."

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Solidarity split deepens

WARSAW (R) — Top Solidarity figures resigned from Lech Walesa's political powerhouse Sunday, accusing him of undermining the government and acting like a despot. Walesa's Citizens' Committee, the group that masterminded Solidarity's victory over the Communists in elections last year, was torn apart as a third of its members quit. "Until today we were together. From today we differ fundamentally on what democracy is and what it is not," said Adam Michnik, editor of the Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza and one of the most influential defectors. Bronislaw Geremek, leader of Solidarity's parliamentary group, criticised Walesa for seeking to become president of Poland and accusing the government of creating a new political monopoly. "Solidarity is not threatening any monopoly. The real danger is the emergence of extremism in Polish political life," Geremek said. A weary Walesa rose to his feet after time to justify his bid for the presidency and defend himself against charges of being power-hungry and authoritarian.

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Crown Prince leaves for London

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday left for London on an official visit to Britain, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not give details, but said the Crown Prince will meet with senior British officials.

Finnish minister opens talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio, touring the Middle East, opened talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa in Damascus Sunday. "We are making these contacts because Finland is now a member of the U.N. Security Council and we should know what is happening in the region," Paasio told reporters when he arrived Saturday night. Officials said Paasio would discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict, Lebanon and bilateral cooperation and would meet President Hafez Al Assad and Prime Minister Mahmoud Zu'bi before leaving for Jordan Tuesday.

U.N. official visits Yemen

SANAA (R) — An official of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) arrived in Sanaa Sunday to examine conditions in the newly declared Yemeni Republic, the Yemeni News Agency (SABA) said. UNDP Deputy Director Mohammad Abdullah Nour told the agency that he would discuss with Yemeni officials ways of increasing U.N. support for development projects.

Several wounded in Algerian election clash

ALGIERS (R) — Several people were wounded in clashes over election results in the southern Algerian town of Berriane Saturday night, the Algerian news agency AFS said Sunday. It said police intervened with tear-gas Sunday to end the disturbances in which shops were also burned. AFS said fights broke out after a provincial judicial committee rejected a complaint of poll irregularities by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). Both were defeated by independents in the June 12 municipal elections in Berriane, 40 kilometres north of the southern city of Ghardaia.

Blast kills Amal official

SIDON (AP) — A booby-trapped car exploded Sunday near this southern port city, killing Hussein Hijazi, the regional security commander of the Syrian-backed Amal militia, police said. They said three of his aides were wounded in the blast and rushed to a hospital in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. The car blew up when Hijazi started the ignition, a police spokesman said. He said the car was parked outside Hijazi's base in Ghaziyeh, five kilometres south of Sidon, provincial capital of South Lebanon. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Librian peace talks resume Monday

MONROVIA (R) — The Liberian government resumes peace talks Monday with rebels who have used the two-week recess to advance towards President Samuel Doe's embattled capital, Monrovia. The talks in Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone, are seen by many Liberians as a last chance to avert an assault on Monrovia.

Ethiopia rebels claim capture of 2 towns

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebel forces said Sunday they had annihilated two Ethiopian army brigades and captured the towns of Mehal Meda and Molale, 170 kilometres northeast of the capital Addis Ababa. The radio of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), monitored in Nairobi, said its forces had killed 595 troops.

Iranian quake toll seen over 50,000

New tremors complicate relief efforts

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Another major earthquake rocked Iran's devastated Caspian region Sunday, compounding the misery of survivors and impeding relief efforts after a far more powerful earthquake killed up to 50,000 people three days ago. The national news agency IRNA said the new quake, measuring 5.7 on the open-ended Richter Scale, jolted the plan provincial capital of Rasht at 1:16 p.m. (0946 GMT), triggering landslides that blocked main roads.

There was no immediate report of fresh casualties. "Don't ask me how many are dead. Ask how many have survived," a villager from Kopeh, near the northwestern city of Zanjan, said of the 7.3 quake that flattened a dozen towns and countless villages early Thursday while most people slept.

The fresh quake in Gilan province and 60 other tremors in the region in the past 24 hours caused fresh landslides, hampering relief work and adding to the anxieties of half a million people made homeless.

Health workers donned masks as they tried to disinfect ruins in Gilan and neighbouring Zanjan province threatened by disease from decaying bodies and contaminated water.

A milder tremor registering 4.9 rattled southern Iran on Sunday. IRNA said the shock caused panic but no loss of life or property in Farsan, a rugged region of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province 500 kilometres south of Tehran.

International relief supplies poured into the country from diplomatic friends and foes alike to help the Tehran government cope with the worst natural disaster in modern Iranian history.

Rescue workers were still struggling to reach some mountain villages that remained inaccessible 85 hours after the big quake.

Dozens of plane-loads of relief supplies landed in Tehran, but the radical newspaper Jomhuri Islami urged that no help should be accepted from the United States and other countries whose hands "are stained with the blood of the Iranian people."

The foreign ministry, however, denied that foreign relief teams were barred from the stricken area and stressed that "due to the magnitude of the disaster," Iran would accept all such aid.

Rescuers aided by police dogs pulled bodies from the rubble. A team of 205 French rescue workers arrived in the region with 18 search dogs and 35 tons of equipment, television reported.

Officials said that during the next two days at least 32 relief flights from nine countries were scheduled to land at Tehran airport.

An official said they included 11 planes from West Germany carrying 145 tons of supplies, plus a field hospital with two medical teams, and nine flights from Turkey.

Other flights announced to the office of the U.N. Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), were to arrive from Bangladesh, Japan, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Pakistan, Switzerland and Britain, he said.

Iran also asked for help from U.N. experts in improving communications, which continued to pose problems in the quake zone.

The International Red Cross said Friday Iran expressly stated it did not want satellite communications equipment to be included in the relief supplies.

(Continued on page 2)

Lebanese group claims attack

Israel threatens to kill more PLO vows to fight Israeli 'civil guards'

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Lebanese group called Dawn Forces claimed responsibility Sunday for an abortive seaborne attack against Israel. It said two of its men were killed.

The unit of martyr Jamal Al Habbal tried to cross to Palestine and clashed with a Zionist naval patrol. Two strugglers were killed and one of the dinghies sank. The other members of the unit returned to their base," the pro-Israeli group said.

An Israeli army spokesman in occupied Jerusalem said Saturday night an Israeli gunboat destroyed a boat with "plans to strike at northern Israel."

There were conflicting reports about the clash. Israel said only one guerrilla boat was involved with two guerrillas killed.

Lebanese police said Israeli patrol vessel spotted two rubber dinghies with onboard motors, each carrying four guerrillas, at 10:55 p.m. (1955 GMT) Saturday as they sailed south of Tyre towards Israel.

The Israelis opened up with cannons and machine guns, sinking one of the dinghies and killing three of the guerrillas on board, said a police spokesman in Tyre, 80 kilometres south of Beirut. The fourth man was reported missing.

This was designed to favour a plan to settle Jews in the occupied territories, especially around Jerusalem, he added, and be challenged U.S. President George Bush to respond.

"The PLO is watching the reaction of Bush to these massacres and this Israeli aggression against Palestinian civilians, and whether he will adopt a balanced position," Abu Sharif said.

"Bush can stop Israel by respecting, as president of the United States, American law which allows for cutting aid to any country that massively violates human rights," he said.

Israeli police chief Yaacov Turner warned Jerusalem Sunday that police would kill more of them if they continued anti-Israeli demonstrations.

"Israeli police exercise 'outstanding restraint' but there is also a limit to the restraint," Turner told a news conference after two days of protests in the shadow of the Old City walls last week in which three Arabs died.

"If those who live in the Silwan, Abu Tor and Ras Al Amond won't grasp the concept that there is a limit and a line not to be crossed, more will be killed," he said, referring to districts in Arab East Jerusalem where there has been a spate of anti-Jewish violence.

Bassem Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told a news conference. "These militias are led by reserve officers and benefit from the protection of the regular Israeli army, and we will fight every settler who plunders our land."

"The Israel decision to authorize these Israelis to bear arms and kill Palestinians on the pretext of defending settlements established by force on land grabbed from Palestinians, means it has decided to intensify the murder of Palestinians," Abu Sharif said.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens announced Saturday the creation of the first two units of "civilian guards" in the settlements of Kyriat Arba and Ariel.

Abu Sharif accused Israeli authorities of having intensified repression of Palestinians in the last 48 hours, especially in the Jerusalem region.

He said the Israeli army had killed two Palestinians and wounded more than 230 during the last two days.

This was designed to favour a



A plane being loaded Sunday with Jordanian medicine and relief supplies for Iran (Petra photo)

12 tonnes of Jordanian relief supplies airlifted to Iranians

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two planes carrying 12 tonnes of medical supplies left Amman for Iran Sunday in a humanitarian gesture to provide relief services to thousands of victims of a devastating earthquake which has claimed the lives of 50,000 people in north-western Iran.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced in a regular parliamentary session Saturday that medical supplies and a medical relief team would be sent to Iran under directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein.

"We have sent 12 tonnes of medical supplies that include antibiotics, glucose, bandages, pain-killers, first aid supplies and other medications to Iran," Minister of Health Mohammad Al Zaben told the Jordan Times Sunday.

"Iran has asked that we only send medical supplies and no medical team," he said.

The Ministry of Health donated 4.5 tonnes of the relief supplies, and the rest was donated by four Jordanian pharmaceutical companies, the minister said.

Iran has reportedly discouraged foreign medical teams from going there to help in relief efforts. The Pakistani embassy, which looks after Iranian interests in Jordan after Amman broke diplomatic ties with Tehran in 1981, said it had very little information on the aid.

"The whole aid issue has not been discussed with us," said Mohammad Al Hassan, the second secretary at the embassy. "It seems that the contacts may have been made directly through the foreign ministers here and in Tehran," Hassan said.

The United Nations in Geneva said that Iran was still discouraging foreign workers from coming to their aid.

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Giants Brazil crashes out; Germans overpower Dutch

ROME (Agencies) — Brazil stumbled out of World Cup Sunday, victims of bad luck, their own tactics and a breakthrough goal by champions Argentina in what could hardly be described as a show of Latin American football, while West Germany ousted the Netherlands in an ill-tempered battle which pitted the two European giants.

If the match criticised defence and attack style of the Brazilians was to be blamed for their failure to reach the quarter-finals of the cup, the story of the Netherlands was one of wasted opportunities and superb skills of the West Germans.

The record books will show that three-times winners Brazil lost to an 80th minute goal by Claudio Caniggia.

But just as vital an incident came 10 minutes earlier when Brazil's Muller pounced on a neat flick by striking partner Caraca.

The big Torino star, his path to goal blocked, instinctively wheeled round to deliver the final, telling pass only to see an empty penalty area.

Coming after a string of wasted chances, Brazil's much criticised tactic of having only two men up front was never more cruelly exposed.

"We should never have tried to play this kind of European football," said a bitter Paulo Soares who had travelled to Italy from the southern city of Santa Catarina.

Brazil, whose magically gifted sides normally attract the support of most neutrals, have not been eliminated so early from the World Cup since 1966 in England.

Twice champions West Germany reached the quarter-finals of the cup when they beat the Netherlands 2-1 in an ill-tempered battle in which both sides had a player sent off.

Second half goals from Jurgen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme earned the Germans a quarter-final match against Czechoslovakia in Milan next Sunday.

A penalty from defender Ronald Koeman came too late to rescue the Dutch.

The low point of the match came after 22 minutes when Dutch defender Frank Rijsema and opposing striker Rudi Voller were sent off by Argentine referee Juan Carlos Loustau following a goalkick controversy.

Dutchman Jan Wouters and Marco van Basten and West German captain Lothar Matthaus were all booked.

Sharon: No settlement of emigres in W. Bank, Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hawkish Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that Israel would not settle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sharon, speaking to reporters after meeting an international Zionist group, said the government would concentrate its efforts on housing the newcomers within Israel's "green line."

"Because of the problems involved immigrants will not be sent across the green line," said Sharon, who heads a ministerial committee on immigration.

He said, however, that Israel would not stop its settlement drive in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"It does not mean that other people cannot settle in any place. Construction will be continued, in accordance with government policy, in all parts of the land of Israel," he said.

"But as far as the immigrants are concerned, they would not be settled — because of the problems we have — beyond the green line," Sharon said.

Sharon gave no clue as to how this policy would be implemented, and whether immigrants would actually be prevented from settling in the occupied territories.

Latest statistics to emerge through a government news blackout showed 43,000 Soviet Jews had arrived in Israel during the first five months of 1990, but only a few hundred had settled in the occupied territories.

Palestinians fear that any increase of the Jewish population in the occupied territories will be at their expense and Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev says he will reconsider reformed exit laws if his country's Jewish emigrants settle on the occupied territories.

Sharon said efforts to house the flood of newcomers would centre on the almost uninhabited Naqurah desert and predominantly Arab Galilee and Wadi Ara areas.

Israel expects the influx of Soviet Jews to reach 250,000 this year alone. At least one million Soviet Jews have applied for exit visas.

Many Jews leaving the Soviet Union are prevented from going to their preferred destination, the United States, by U.S. quotas.

Battle ends over Higher Court of Justice, but debate is not over

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A thorny controversy pitting the executive authority against the legislative body has come to an end with Saturday's endorsement by the Lower House of an amendment to a law related to the Higher Court of Justice, but the debate is continuing among legal and government circles about the consequences of the legislation.

The controversy revolved around whether the Higher Court of Justice be empowered to accept challenges to government decisions related to transfer, retirements, pension, salaries and disciplinary action against civil servants.

The government has been arguing that designating the Higher Court of Justice as the sole arbitrator in administrative decisions related to civil servants would result in delayed bureaucratic action and in excess workloads warranting additional judges and staff

which in turn add further financial burden on the executive authority. "Some estimates indicate that we might need at least 100 more judges to cope with the flood of appeals against administrative decisions," said Minister of Justice Youssef Mbeideen in a recent interview with the Jordan Times. "First of all, we do not have that many competent judges, and second the financial burden of employing them as well as support staff will also be heavy."

According to the minister, the government favoured a built-in panel which can deal with challenges against administrative decisions, and a further three-phase system — the Court of First Instance, the Appeals Court and then the Supreme Court — to accommodate complaints from civil servants who are not happy with the decisions of the administrative structure.

"This will eliminate the flow of superfluous cases to court," Mbeideen, a lawyer by profession and a member of the Lower House, told the Jordan Times.

However, lawyers in private practice contended that the government was exaggerating the

volume of expected workload at the Higher Court of Justice. "It is true that there will be a slight rise in cases," said lawyer Taher Hikmat. "But, by nature, our civil servants are not prone to take every case to court. In any event, a few more judges, who are efficient, competent and aware of the role of the administrator will serve the purpose."

Furthermore, approaching the Higher Court of Justice "is an expensive affair which an average civil servant cannot afford," according to Hikmat, a former minister.

In any event, the fundamental element remains that the amendment to the law contributes to "building a critical balance between an efficient, impartial and competent administrative authority and the rights of the individual," Hikmat told the Jordan Times.

"It is true that the administrative authority will be embarrassed at first to find its decisions challenged," the lawyer agreed. "But, there we are living in a new democratic era and a new phase in the life of Jordan, and challenges against government decisions are a

way of life in any democratic country. "It helps create models and patterns of administrative behaviour and establish traditions of impartial, efficient administrators who will not abuse power," he added.

These were the key arguments also raised in the Lower House by deputies, some of them veteran lawyers, who pushed the amendment through by a 34-31 vote Saturday.

According to Hussein Mjaily, a former president of the Jordan Bar Association and the serving chairman of the Legal Committee of the House, the changes to the law will "further improve the administrative process, protect the rights of the civil servants and ensure that the government's decisions are taken in the right direction."

"It is the constitutional right of every citizen to resort to the law," said the deputy from Irbid Governorate. "No administrative decision should be immune against appeal."

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir told the House that the new legislation would "invariably tarnish the Kingdom's democratisation process and cripple the authorities of public figures."

Faqir, an Islamist deputy from Amman, was supported by Deputy Issa Rimoni from Irbid Governorate who argued that senior officials in positions empowered with decision-making "are supposed to exercise the highest standard of honesty and straightforwardness and their verdicts should not be questioned by a court of law."

On the other hand, one of the executive authority's fears is that efforts to develop outlying regions of the Kingdom could be negatively affected by the new law. "The door is now open for every civil servant who does not want to leave Amman and serve in the rural areas to take a transfer decision to court," said a senior official speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

When taken to court, transfer orders are frozen pending the final court verdict, and this could hamper the process of meeting the needs for personnel in the rural and outlying regions, the official noted. He agreed that "arbitrary decisions by senior officials" were possible, but "these could be handled by a mechanism within the

administrative structure without involving a court of law."

"Cases where the concerned civil servant exhausts himself or herself of all administrative resources could of course be taken to a court of law," he added.

Proponents of the amendment counter that no excessive cases would reach the stage of hearings by the Higher Court of Justice if judges are efficient and competent as well as fully aware of the requirements of administration.

"As long as there is no misuse of power and authority by the concerned decision-maker, there is no reason why the court should blindly accept all cases," according to Hikmat. "After all, the judge should also put himself in the shoes of the administrator and assess the validity of the decision involved."

How do government servants feel about the amendment? "Well, in most cases, people victimised by their superiors always approach higher authorities with the case," commented an official at the Ministry of Education, who requested anonymity.

"But there are cases when the higher authorities are influenced by the person or persons who made

the original decision, and these cases warrant that they be handled by an impartial body."

"Now that we know there is a sole authority which can handle our cases, it is a relief," the official added.

But, a junior clerk at the Water Authority of Jordan feels differently. "Average employees like me do not like to go to court against senior officials with silly cases," he commented. "No matter what the outcome, it creates ill-feelings and undermines harmony. Of course, if my rights are trampled upon with no human considerations, I will stop at nothing to get justice done."

A medium-level official at the Ministry of Health reacted vehemently when asked what her recourse would be if she was asked to leave Amman and serve one of the ministry's departments. "Whoever takes the decision will not be human," she countered. "How can anyone in his or her right mind ask me, a mother of five, to throw my family life to chaos?"

"I will appeal directly to His Majesty," she said. "I do not need any courts."

هكذا صنع القانون

Seminar debates immigration Jewish

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Another step to raise the consciousness of the Arab World about the dangers inherent in the immigration of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews to Palestine was taken by the Jordanian Writers' Association (JWA) in cooperation with the Arab Cultural Council Sunday as representatives of the two organisations as well as Minister of Interior Salem Massadeh presided over the opening ceremony of a seminar entitled "Jewish Immigration and Zionist Intentions."

The three-day seminar, at the Royal Cultural Centre, will serve as a forum for over thirty-five researchers from more than ten Arab countries in their discussions about the past and present dangers, intentions and results of massive immigration of Jews to Palestine and its effects on the Arab World.

"The purpose of this seminar is to highlight the dangers presented by the massive influx of Jewish immigrants to occupied Arab lands and the inherent threat of territorial expansion by the Zionists," Abdul Rahim Omar, the JWA president told the audience.

"The seminar is intended to spread more light on the intricacies of the whole immigration affair and to highlight the facts, through the media, to the Arab people," said one of the organisers of the seminar. Organisers also stressed the seminar was not intended to outline political strategies but rather to inform the participants and the public of the many facts and aspects of the immigration of Jewish peoples to Palestine from the beginning of the century up to now.

In half a dozen statements made by participants during the opening of the seminar, several key issues came to the forefront.

The key issues outlined by speakers were: 1) the need to continue and increase financial and moral support for the Palestinian Uprising, 2) the need of Arab support for Jordan since the King-

dom is a primary target of Zionist aggression, 3) raising consciousness of the inherent dangers of Zionist expansionist schemes and the implementation of the creation of "greater Israel" and the effect on the Arab World, 4) the need to have a unified Arab stand in the face of Zionist aggression and expansion.

"It is a question of to be or not to be," said Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Medical Association, who was participating in his capacity as president of the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada.

"The issue of Jewish immigration is one of territorial expansion and settlement on Arab lands by Jews. It is in effect a declaration of war against the Arab Nation," Abbadi told the nearly 150 people attending the opening ceremony.

Abbadi stressed that at the Arab summit the Arab leaders apparently came to the realisation that the unconditional support for the Palestinian uprising and of Jordan were a top priority and of equal pressing importance.

"The Palestinian issue and the future of Jordan is the tale of twins, it is inseparable and eternal," he stressed: "the financial support must be forthcoming in order for the intifada to continue and Jordan to remain stable."

"It is not enough to create unions and organisations, we are in dire need of Arab unification, which is the only road to victory," said Omar Hamada, the council's secretary general.

"It is not possible for the Arab nations to be spectators while the enemy is threatening our national identity and existence in Palestine and other Arab lands," Hamada said.

Hamada also blamed the Arab governments for delaying steps which would lead to the unification of the Arab World. The lack of unity, he said, made the region more vulnerable to outside threats.

A brief history of expansionist plans by Israeli and Zionist leaders was given by another speaker at the opening ceremonies, PLO representative in Amman Tayyeb

Abdul Rahim.

"The late Israeli-Zionist leader David Ben Gurion said once that every Jew who opposes immigration to Israel is an apostate in Judaism," Abdul Rahim told the gathering of officials, writers, journalists.

"We have to be reminded of the lengths that the Zionists went to 'collect' Arab Jews and settle them on Palestinian land," he asked.

Abdul Rahim said that Ben Gurion's statement that a 1950 map of "greater Israel" (from the Euphrates to the Nile) was engraved in the heart of every Jew should have been a sufficient warning to Arab World of Israel's intentions.

"Now we are reminded again of the intentions of the Zionist state by Mr. Shamir who has put immigration and settlement at the top of his government's agenda," he said.

International law, Abdul Rahim said, identified a nation by its boundaries and defined peoples. "Israel, however, has consistently refused to define its borders and its peoples. Even in the Camp David agreements its northern and eastern borders were not mentioned."

The PLO representative said that in 1948, Britain had fostered the founding of Israel on parts of Palestine and that in 1990 the United States, with its seemingly limitless financial aid, was supporting the founding of "greater Israel."

He also expressed regret that the Arab World had proven incapable of preventing the creation of the state of Israel in 1948 and urged that the Arab World prepare itself to prevent a planned expansion of that state in this decade.

Libid Deputy Deeb Marji, also addressing the audience in the opening ceremony, stressed that the defence of Jordan was an Arab duty in light of the dangers posed by the immigration and the possibility of subsequent territorial expansion of Israel.

"Palestine and Jordan have a common identity and destiny and thus their defence is the responsibility of the whole Arab World," Marji said.

Muta University to hold graduation ceremonies

KARAK (Petra) — Ceremonies will be held at Muta University near Karak on Tuesday and Wednesday for the graduation of the third and first students from the military and the civilian sections respectively, according to university President Awad Khleifat.

The graduation, which also marks the university's 10th anniversary, will be held under Royal patronage and in the presence of senior officials and representatives from various Jordanian universities, Khleifat said in a statement Sunday.

He said that the first batch of Muta students graduated in 1988; in 1986 the civilian section was established although classes were held in rented buildings for the civilian students.

"When it was first created in

1981 Muta University had only two academic specialisations, rising to 20 by the end of the 1989-90 academic year and the 23 staff members grew into 160 over the past 10 years," Khleifat said.

He said that the current number of the university students is 2,965, up from 400 in 1981.

The civilian section has four faculties: arts, sciences, law and engineering and runs evening classes in addition to the normal morning hours, the university president added.

Referring to the university's services to the local community in

southern Jordan, Khleifat said that a total of eight specialised courses have been organised for staff from municipal councils and Muta has been providing training in different areas to school students from Karak and other towns; its workshops have been involved in manufacturing furniture, repairing machinery and equipment used in combating desert locusts and has been cooperating with the Arab Potash Company, the Jordan Mines Phosphate Company and the fertilisers company, all located in the south.

Khleifat said that the first phase of the permanent site of the civilian wing will be completed by 1991 at the expected cost of JD 3.6 million; the coming three years will witness the completion of the second phase at the estimated cost of JD 25 million.

Eid to be marked Monday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will observe a public holiday from Sunday morning July 1 till Friday evening July 6 on the occasion of Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice) which follows the final religious ceremonies in Mecca, marking the end of this year's pilgrimage to the holy places.

A government statement said Sunday that all government departments and public institutions will remain closed Sunday through Thursday and reopen for business on Saturday.

Saturday evening the Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mhailan announced that Eid Al Adha falls on Monday July 2 and expressed good wishes to the Arab and Islamic nations.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs 3,000 pilgrims have already arrived by land from Jordan and were lodged at Mecca where they will perform the religious rites.

The head of a ministry mission accompanying the pilgrims to Medina and Mecca reported that arrangements for putting up the pilgrims were being coordinated with the Saudi authorities and that everything was going on as scheduled.

Ambassador to head for Libya soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet Sunday announced the appointment of Hisham Al Muhaisen as Jordan's ambassador to Libya and said the ambassador will be leaving for Tripoli soon to present his credentials.

Saturday the Jordanian flag was raised on the Jordanian embassy building in the Libyan capital marking the official restoration of diplomatic relations broken off since 1984.

Muhaisen visited Tripoli last April to inspect the embassy building restored after being burnt down in an anti-Jordanian demonstration in 1984. It was not until 1987 that the sides decided to restore relations.

Prince Hassan meets unions

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday said that the leadership of this country has genuine intentions to develop the country and activate its role to enable it enjoy a unique and ideal status among the world countries.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan's achievements have won it the appreciation and respect of the Arab World.

At a meeting with representatives of the trade unions in Jordan, Prince Hassan stressed the importance of national unity and described it as a noble goal which "we all should seek to achieve."

Prince Hassan called for the adoption of a clear social strategy for the future decades and stressed the need for dialogue in order to reach at common grounds of understanding.

Prince Hassan said "we should do away with the oratory style" and avoid the challenging methods, particularly in a society undergoing radical changes in its lifestyle.

Prince Hassan questioned whether Jordan was able to plan for long terms (from cradle to the grave) and whether it was able to establish a centre for professional studies.

He also inquired whether the professional associations were able to hold a national economic conference.

Chairman of the Professional Associations Complex Mamdouh Al Abbadi said the associations have become a professional, social and political landmark in Jordan. Abbadi reviewed the professional role played by the associations in organising the profession, upgrading the performance and strengthening scientific research, as well as laying down the foundations of democracy.

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IDB finances Sudan order of Jordan cement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sudan has concluded a deal to purchase 50,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement worth \$1.8 million to be supplied in loans by the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB), according to an agreement signed in Amman Sunday.

Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) acted on behalf of IDB in signing the deal with the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC).

The transaction will officially be conducted through the Sudanese Estates Bank in Khartoum and in accordance with a long-term financing plan drawn up by IDB which normally undertake the process of financing exports and imports from and to Islamic nations, members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The deal was signed by JCCC Director Ghazi Diyab, JCFC Director Hatem Halawani and the Sudanese Estates Bank Abdin Salameh.

JCCC has been implementing a strategy of promoting sales of Jordanian national products with aid from the Islamic Development Bank; according to Diyab, the Islamic Bank's loan quota for Jordan in this programme amounts to \$5 million annually.

Court upholds freedom of expression and publishing

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of First Instance, citing freedom of thought and expression, has ruled in favour of the writer and publisher of a newspaper article highly critical of the Jordanian judicial system and calling for sweeping reforms.

The highlight of the affair, according to some lawyers, was the fact that the writer is a former judge and the plaintiffs were the judicial authorities.

Farouq Al Kilani, a former judge who is now practising law, told the Jordan Times that the cases stemmed from an article he wrote in the Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab in December 1989 in which he singled out what he found as shortcomings in the judicial system, including drawn-out court procedures and accumulation of cases for years without final ruling.

"Justice can not be done because judicial proceedings based on firm foundations do not exist, and justice cannot be done outside the framework of an integrated structure," Kilani said in his article. Justice can prevail only within "well-defined measures that can safeguard individuals' rights, can put an end to delay and procrastination and prevent tampering with laws," he wrote.

The former judge also criticised the professional educational standard of judges, and asserted that "judges conduct no research and

justice hinges on personal judgement. He assailed officials for overlooking these dangerous problems which have far-reaching dimensions."

In its ruling Saturday, the Court of First Instance rejected the charges against Kilani and Sultan Hattab, chief editor of Sawt Al Shaab, filed by the office of the prosecutor-general. The court ruling said that the writer was exercising his right to freedom of thought and expression while the publisher was well within his own rights of publishing when he ran the article in the newspaper.

According to lawyers who volunteered to help the defence in the six-month-old case, the article was not inasmuch as emphasising the need for reforms in the judicial system as it was an attack on the judicial authorities.

"Criticism should be accepted in a civilised way," said one of the lawyers who defended Kilani and Hattab. Several serving members of Parliament, leading politicians and former ministers were defence witnesses in the cases.

Kilani told the Jordan Times that the testimonies of all ministers and senior officials who supported his case will be published in series of articles beginning in a few days. Kilani described the court decision as "final." It was not immediately known if the prosecutor general's office will pursue the case by appealing the case or representing it.

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Democratic institutions take roots

THE OPENING of an office for the Arab Human Rights Organisation in Amman Saturday and the earlier decision by Amnesty International to establish a chapter in Jordan are milestones in the development of democratic institutions in the Kingdom. No one would have envisaged such a development a year ago. For years, human rights campaigners were operating clandestinely while the authorities reacted nervously to any attempt to establish such institutions. Both sides must draw lessons from such an experience. Both must recognise that mutual mistrust and nervousness and continuous strife cannot contribute to the progress and prosperity of the country nor to the welfare and wellbeing of its people.

The concept of human rights is relatively modern and mostly identified as Western. That tends to make it alien and suspect. But human rights, foremost of which is the right of the individual for a secure and dignified life, are sacred. If God created man in His image, then the spirit of God, the Compassionate and Merciful, must reside in man and guide his relations with other fellow human beings, be they rulers or the ruled; native or foreign; Muslim, Christian or Jew; black or white. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan emphasized, the cause of human rights should be based on Arab and Islamic culture for it to triumph in the Arab World. It should draw from Muslim and Arab experience in order for it to take root and develop healthily. Perhaps one of the most urgent tasks of the Arab Human Rights Organisation is to study and research the history of human rights in the Arab World, not only in the last century but through the ages. Only by doing so can a genuine, indigenous human rights movement emerge and gain popular acceptance.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Sunday said that the Arabs have extended a helping hand to Iran in the wake of the earthquake that left tens of thousands of people dead or injured and displaced. King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein took the lead in such humanitarian gesture, offering aid to the victims and consoling the Iranian nation on its loss, manifesting the true Arab character and solidarity with a Muslim nation, the paper said. By doing so, the Arabs are doing their duty towards a brotherly nation in need and facing a catastrophe; and have proved that they are indeed serious towards erasing the adverse effects and consequence of the eight-year-long war in the Gulf region, the paper continued. At the same time, Iran responded by announcing its rejection of any aid that might be offered by Israel or the racist regime in South Africa, thus proving that it is also concerned to attain solidarity among Muslim nations, the paper said. It goes without saying that such solidarity at this critical moment is bound to speed up the process of constructing bridges of understanding between Iran and Iraq, following years of conflict that resulted in heavy losses in life and property, the paper added.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, columnist Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Washington's recent decision to suspend a dialogue with the PLO places the Arab nation face to face with new realities. The reactions emerging from the Arab countries in reply to the American decision were not encouraging, and not to the level of the American challenge, says the writer. What is really needed now is to put the resolutions of the recent Baghdad summit into force, and to deal with the United States and other nations in light of their stand vis-a-vis the Palestine issue as agreed by the Arab leaders in that summit, Rimawi says. The writer suggests an urgent meeting by Arab foreign ministers to discuss a joint step to confront the American escalation of tension in our region, and to work out a proper formula for the implementation of the summit's resolution. We should not be calling on the Arab states to launch a new war in the region but rather to employ all means at their disposal economically and politically in their confrontation with their common enemies, Rimawi adds. The Arab summit resolutions, he says, should serve as a guide for future Arab action.

Al Dustour daily said Sunday that Washington's decision to suspend a dialogue with the PLO disappointed many Arabs who had hoped that the United States would give up its biased stand towards Israel in order to seriously work out a formula for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Many Arab observers, said the paper, considered Washington's decision as a reply to the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions and an open manifestation of its Zionist-oriented policy that caters to the needs of Israel and tries to safeguard its interests rather than those of the United States itself. What is more, it said, the decision displayed clearly the contradiction between official American statements and the realities on the ground. The paper supported a call for convening an Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis to discuss what action the Arabs should take now in reply to the American

Writing call options is not for the oil exporting countries

By Shawkat Hamoudah

The writer is associate professor of economy at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is also a consultant to the Ministry of Energy in Jordan and formerly worked for the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries.

THE debt plight of many developing countries has attracted significant attention during the last eight years. The origin of the problem is traced to increased volatility of commodity prices at a time when those countries were increasing their borrowings in the hope that export proceeds would service the debt. The debt service payments have led to a net outflow of capital which slowed their economic growth.

The inability of these countries to meet their debt payments has also increased the debt exposure of many commercial banking lenders in the developed countries, causing these institutions to increase their loan-loss reserves. Consequently, banks' earnings have dropped and their stocks have significantly underperformed the market.

Several proposals were forwarded to help solve the developing countries' debt problem.

The proposed solutions have included loan rescheduling, debt reduction, debt-equity swaps, Baker's plan, Bradley's plan... etc. A new proposal was set forth by two economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The proposal, which was forwarded by Feinstein and Abken, makes use of commercial price volatility to provide a new source of funds that may supplement these countries' proceeds and help alleviate some of their debt burden.

The proposal suggests that developing countries write (sell) long term, high strike call options on the prices of their primary commodities (oil, wheat, copper, coffee etc.). The buyers of the call options (whether businesses, traders or investors) purchase the right — not the obligation — to buy a certain volume of a commodity for a specified price on a given future date. The specified price is known in the options literature as the strike or exercise price. The option holder's gain is the difference between the future price of the commodity and the strike price adjusted by the cost of purchasing the call option. Thus, the gain of the call holder is unlimited, while the loss is limited to the cost of the option contract. The opposite is true for the writer of the

option contract, which in this case is developing country. If the price of the commodity remains below the strike price plus the contract cost (the premium), the option holder will not exercise the option and the developing country will realise a premium while still being able to sell its commodity on the market.

For example, Mexico can write an oil option for \$27 per barrel on a given date in five years, even though the current price is only \$17.25 per barrel. The authors calculated the premium to be \$2.25 per barrel. In this case, Mexico gains \$2.25 per barrel. If the option holder does not exercise its right in five years (because the future price remains below the strike price), Mexico can still sell its oil at the prevailing price. Therefore, developing countries can secure an extra source of funds which can be used to ease their debt burden. For a country with the oil production of Iraq or Iran, this source theoretically can bring in several billion dollars a year.

This proposal can be very useful for the exporters of agricultural commodities which are characterised by high upward as well as downward volatility. The call options on the prices of these commodities can be

written on a yearly basis. Many developing countries will be encouraged to establish their own options markets. In fact, many American farmers have already used call and put options to hedge future price fluctuations. It would not be surprising if farmers in developing countries followed suit.

The proposal is also useful for exporters of metals, such as copper, aluminium etc. However, since these metals are depletable resources and the demand for them follows business cycles, the expiration period will be much longer than that of agricultural commodities. Developing countries will be interested in writing call options on these commodities near the peak of the business cycle while option buyers will be more interested near the trough of the cycle. The volatility, which is a primary determinant of the cost of the call contract (the premium), will be much less than that of the agricultural commodities. This market will not be as useful for developing countries as that of the agricultural options market since the interest of the participants depends on the phases of the business cycles. The prices of the call options written on

those commodities may not be as favourable to developing countries as prices of those written on the agricultural products, depending on the business cycle.

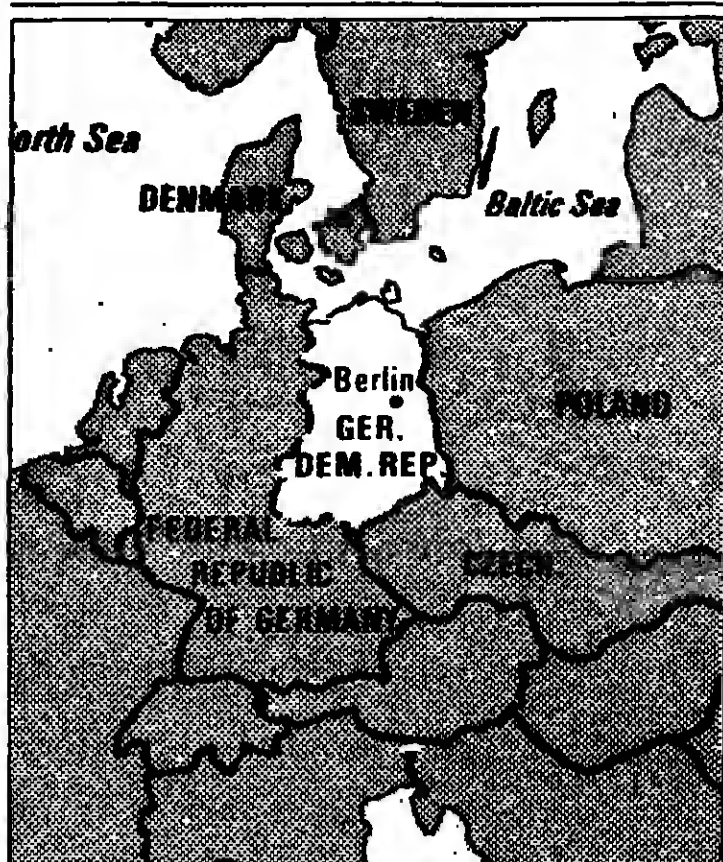
The oil exporting developing countries, especially OPEC members, will not find the proposal useful. Allowing these countries to individually set strike prices along with potential oil buyers, will challenge OPEC's authority to administer oil prices. The major oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE have bargained hard within OPEC for the last six years to expand their dominance and market shares. Because of their huge oil reserves, their social preference function calls for gradual but reasonable increases in oil prices. These countries are not debt ridden and they depend on their investment income to reduce their oil revenue volatility. Kuwait, for example, receives about \$10 billion in investment income a year on assets worth over \$80 billion. To them, selling call options on crude prices would be the straw that broke the camel's back. In this case, the camel is OPEC.

Moreover, there is wide agreement among oil specialists that the demand for oil will rise at 2-2.5 per cent annually

during this decade. Most of the increase in demand will be met from OPEC production. This means that OPEC's output will reach 26-27 million barrels a day in the year 1993-94. Barring any significant additions to capacity, OPEC's excess capacity will decline to around one million barrels a day by 1993/94. This sets the stage for the small producers such as Libya, Venezuela, Algeria and Nigeria, some of which are debt burdened, to spearhead increases in oil price. Any five year strike price will become irrelevant and meaningless to these countries. Moreover, in such an atmosphere of a tight oil market, writing call options with accelerating strike prices will put more pressures on futures oil prices as well as future spot prices.

The proposal becomes more meaningful for OPEC countries if the organisation itself writes call options on behalf of its members. In this case, it will substitute its current oil pricing policy with another.

OPEC's most urgent task is to stabilise prices during this year and the following one. A more feasible proposal for OPEC during these two years is to write three month futures contracts... Even this proposal will not see the light because time is on OPEC's side.



German unification treaty highlights

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Here are highlights of the treaty that prepares the economic merger of the two Germanys in July and the separate resolution recognising the current Polish border.

Overview — The two Germanys agree to create a monetary, economic and social union as a first step to unification under the West German constitution. The international implications of German unification need to be resolved in talks among the four victorious World War II powers — the Soviet Union, the United States, Great Britain and France.

Monetary Union — On July 1, the West German mark becomes the legal tender in East Germany, but because that day is a Sunday, implementation will actually begin July 2. The West German Bundesbank, or central bank, will have full control over monetary policy in both countries. The economic union will be based on a free-market economy, including private property, competition and workers' rights.

Conversion rates — Workers will have their wages converted from East German marks to West German marks at 1:1 rate.

For savings deposits, East Germans aged 14 and younger will be able to convert up to 2,000 marks

(\$1,200) at a 1-1 rate. Those aged 15-59 will be able to convert 4,000 marks (\$2,400) at the 1-1 rate. People 60 and older can convert up to 6,000 marks (\$3,600) at the favourable rate. All other savings will be converted at two West German marks for one East German mark.

East German pensions will be brought to West German levels, raising most of them.

Debts will be converted a 2-1 rate, more favourable to troubled East German companies.

Border Resolution — In a resolution separate from the economic treaty, the parliaments in East and West Germany recognised the finality of Poland's Western border, delineated by the Oder-Neisse rivers.

The resolution said "both sides declare that they will not raise territorial claims now or in the future."

Such a resolution had become a necessary component of international support for the rapidly approaching unification. About one-third of present day Poland is comprised of German territories lost after World War II. Poles had feared a united Germany might try to reclaim the land, a wish of many ultra-conservative German voters who considered it rightful German property.

Communist legacy persists in Balkans

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — While much of Eastern Europe heads towards Western-style democracy and market economies, the southern, Balkan end of the former Soviet bloc is having trouble getting rid of its Communist legacy.

The lifting of Moscow's control over its Warsaw Pact allies last year led to peaceful anti-Communist revolutions from the Baltic to Hungary, but in the Balkans — the peninsula between the Adriatic and Black seas — the future looks uncertain.

Street clashes in Bucharest in the past two weeks between opponents and supporters of Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) have underscored the problems of ending Communist rule almost overnight.

Since the violent overthrow of President Nicolae Ceausescu last December, the Communist Party has disappeared, but critics say the front, which swept general elections last month, is dominated by ex-Communists whose methods have not changed.

Neighbouring Bulgaria, this month became the first East European country freely to elect the Communists, who have renamed themselves the Socialist Party and say they are committed to a market economy.

Yugoslavia, which broke with Moscow in 1948 and pursued its

own liberalised brand of Communism, has still not had free nationwide elections, and rising ethnic tensions threaten the integrity of a country united only 70 years ago.

Albania, the fourth Balkan country to fall under Communist sway after World War II, is only now starting to emerge from the Stalinist rule which for years isolated it from most of the world.

Western analysts say the Balkan countries differ widely and are likely to follow different paths, but they point to some common historical, social and economic reasons for the political conservatism of the region.

Some blame the Turkish Ottoman empire, which ruled much of the area until the 1870s and left behind a legacy of corruption.

Because the civil service has never been separate from the government, bureaucrats have sought to preserve the regime to save their jobs, these analysts say.

Others say the Orthodox Church, the dominant religious denomination in the area, has a tradition of submission to the authority of the day.

But most agree that the relative economic underdevelopment of the Balkans, compared with the more northern belt of Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Hungary, is a major cause of the persistent influence of the Communists.

"Because the Balkans were more backward, economically

and politically, the Communist system was not quite as inappropriate as in central Europe," says George Schoepf, an East European expert at the London School of Economics.

The same factor, experts say, lies behind the sharp division between the countryside and the town, the workers and the intellectuals.

This was seen most graphically in Romania, where the government brought in miners from the provinces to break up opposition demonstrations by students in the capital.

In Bulgaria, too, rural areas voted largely for the Socialist Party, while urban dwellers tended towards the opposition Union of Democratic Forces.

Another factor hindering the development of free-wheeling democracy, analysts say, is the destabilising influence of the area's complex ethnic mix, which led in the past to furious disputes over territory.

Indeed the term "Balkanisation" is defined by dictionaries as meaning "to divide an area into small, antagonistic states."

"People think: Anyone who opposes the government must be opposed — they really want to destroy our country. Hence the violence," says Jonathan Eyal, assistant director of Britain's Royal United Services Institute.

The 19th century German statesman Otto von Bismarck is reported to have said: "If there is ever another war in Europe, it

will come out of some damned silly thing in the Balkans."

The outbreak of World War I proved him right. Most experts nowadays do not see such a threat, but many predict troubled times for the region.

The disturbances in Romania, experts believe, could act as a brake on economic reform and the pricing of loss-making industries now that Ilescu, officially installed on June 20, has put himself in the debt of the miners.

"Once the working-class has been used as a political weapon, how can you go back and say: 'Okay, boys, we're going to close you down,'" Schoepf said.

The conservative West German daily Die Welt said last week that Bulgaria, too, was a "time bomb" due to frustration by the younger generation at the continuing power of the old Communist network. But other commentators say the Bulgarian leadership is genuinely committed to change.

Most analysts think the Balkan countries cannot simply continue as they are for 40 years, partly because of their bankrupt economies and partly because the threat of Soviet intervention has disappeared.

"Now that has gone, you are likely to see more attempts at rebellion, because the only question is: Can you make it?" Eyal said. "But there is also the possibility you'll get authoritarian governments."

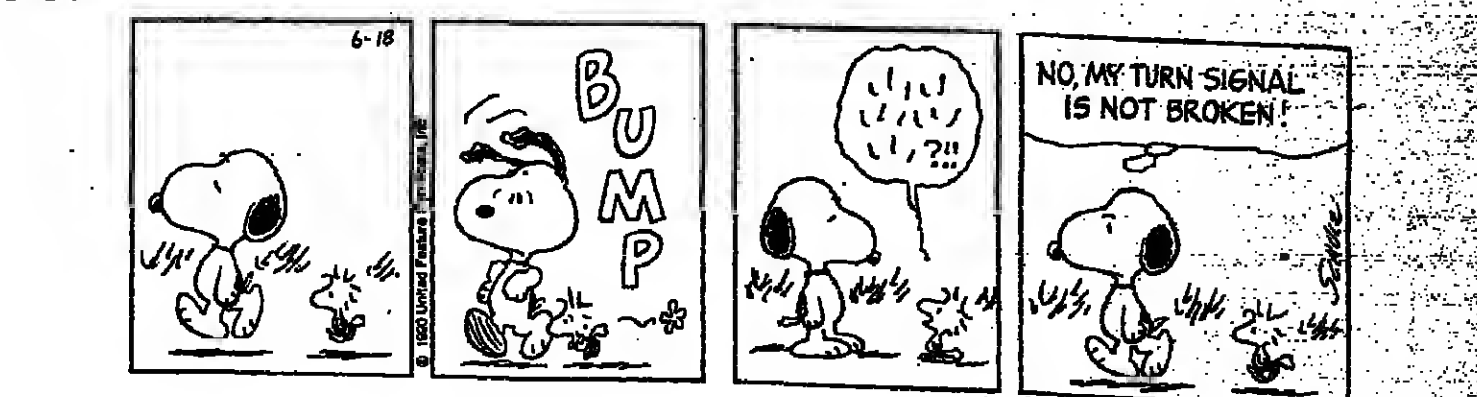
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Features



The occasional dip of an oar ripples the glassy surface of Nageen Lake in Kashmir (File photo)

Kashmir — a paradise that resembles hell today

By Earleen Fisher

The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — It's springtime in Kashmir, and there are roses everywhere.

Bigger than peonies, bluish-pink roses bloom in regal splendour in the meticulously tended 17th century Mogul gardens. Neatly pruned and staked, white and yellow roses invoke the image of past prosperity outside the shuttered tourist hotels facing Dal Lake.

Kashmir, crossroads of the ancient world, way station on the old "silk road" from the Near East to the Far East, was once a paradise.

Today it is an armed camp. Employees of the state government, whose association with Indian authority is enough to make the targets for the guns of independence-minded Kashmiris, are escorted by armed guards from barricaded hostels inside the compound of the no-longer-needed tourist office to barricaded office buildings.

In the Mogul gardens overlooking the lake, the only people in sight are two elderly gardeners and two young soldiers taking a break from trying to contain the burgeoning Muslim revolt.

Down to the city, red roses are shredded petals by petals and scattered on fresh graves. The fragrance of the roses wafts across these "martyrs' cemeteries" created for victims of the struggle between Muslim separatists and the government of India, which is officially secular but dominated by Hindus.

Indian soldiers and paramilitary police guard Srinagar's main streets and every bridge over the Jhelum river, which snakes through the city of 1 million people.

By day, parts of Srinagar assume an air of near-normality. Small groceries and butcher shops open. Pedestrians, bicycles, horse carts, minibuses and cars ply the streets.

By night, when curfew is imposed as it has been since winter, Srinagar is a ghost town.

Streets start emptying an hour before the usual 6 p.m. deadline. People check their watches to see how much time they have to get home, or at least out of sight of the patrols.

Packs of shaggy black and brown dogs roam the streets with their sturdy puppies, rested after a day of lolling in the sun. A single howl starts a canine chorus

that reverberates across the city.

Out on Dal Lake and adjacent Nageen Lake, soldiers and dogs are rarely heard. About 1,200 houseboats are licensed to take paying guests, but hardly any tourists arrive these days.

Moonlight shimmers across the water. Ducks quack once in a while.

The occasional dip of an oar ripples the lake's glassy surface. Houseboat dwellers and their small, arrowlike boats called "shikaras" are not bound by the curfew if they stay away from shore.

Kashmir, whose name was anglicised by British colonial rulers to describe the "cashmere" wool of the shawls and carpets still woven here, has long been synonymous with beauty.

Over the centuries, followers of most of the world's great religions came here: Muslim, now the majority; Hindus; Buddhists, who still have a few remote monasteries in Kashmir; Christians, who operate a few schools; and Jews, whose last known descendants departed for Israel or Indian cities in the past decade.

One legend says Moses, a patriarch of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths, passed this

way. Another holds that Jesus did not die on the cross, but came to Kashmir, lived to the age of 80 and was buried as "yuz asaf" in a tomb that still can be seen in the center of Srinagar. A third says the Prophet Mohammad also sojourned in Kashmir.

Mogul emperors, fresh from spreading Islam across the Hindu lands of India, sought respite in Kashmir, building magnificent forts and terraced gardens of geometrical precision. Later, the British would move their women and children from the summer-time dust and heat of the plains to the cool, clean air of the Himalayan lakes and hills.

By the 1980s, Kashmir attracted 600,000 tourists a year, including about 50,000 foreigners. Indian families and honeymooners came as the growing middle class found time and money to visit a place that seemed a bit foreign but didn't require a passport or foreign currency, which was hard to come by.

In 1989, as the militant Muslim movement spun into one of its periodic cycles of bombings and killings, the number of visitors dropped by one-third.

I am fine please stop

By Jessica Baldwin
Associated Press

LONDON — Despite appeals for it to stop, 10-year-old Craig Shergold receives hundreds of get-well cards daily from strangers trying to help him win a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Craig, who suffers from a rare form of brain cancer, broke the record in the age group, but the cards keep coming. More than 16 million have arrived.

"We don't want any more cards because it looks as though we're taking cards for two reasons," Craig's mother, Marion, said from the family home in Carshalton, South London.

"Every card says 'we hope you make it in the record books,' so it seems kind of greedy to keep accepting them," she said.

Donald McFarlan, the editor of the Guinness Book, said he tried to dissuade the Shergolds from their record bid and warned them that it would spiral out of control.

"Our experience is that once it goes international it is absolutely unstoppable," McFarlan said.

The get-well card category was discontinued once after Mario Morby held the record with 1,000,265 cards. McFarlan said the 13-year-old English boy is recovering from his Leukemia but the family still receives cards three years later.

McFarlan revived the category after intense pressure, and Craig now holds the record.

"I thought I had decided over a year ago that (Mario Morby) would be the last one, but it is very difficult to hold out against an emotive press. I couldn't do my job — well-intentioned, very

sentimental people called me at work and I received quite a lot of hate mail, including one that said, 'if you have children I hope they die of cancer.'"

Craig's record will be included in the 1991 edition published in October, he said. Guinness hasn't announced a specific figure for their book, but the count is above 16 million.

The editor said he was trying to protect the Shergolds "from an ugly situation, particularly if Craig had died. The cards would have kept coming."

Craig had an operation in Jan. 1988 that removed three-quarters of a brain tumor. Mrs. Shergold said doctors believe chemotherapy and radiotherapy have successfully stemmed the disease's spread into his spinal cord.

"He's in wonderful spirits," Mrs. Shergold said.

When Craig is feeling up to it, he visits the Wallington post office, the local depot responsible for delivery of the cards.

"Last night we had 68 trays of about 350 letters per tray for Craig Shergold. Those were mostly from the States and some from South Africa," said Michael Wilkinson, the post office manager.

"Last week we had 51,000 items and judging by yesterday and today's load, we'll have even more this week."

The crush causes extra work for the post office, Wilkinson said.

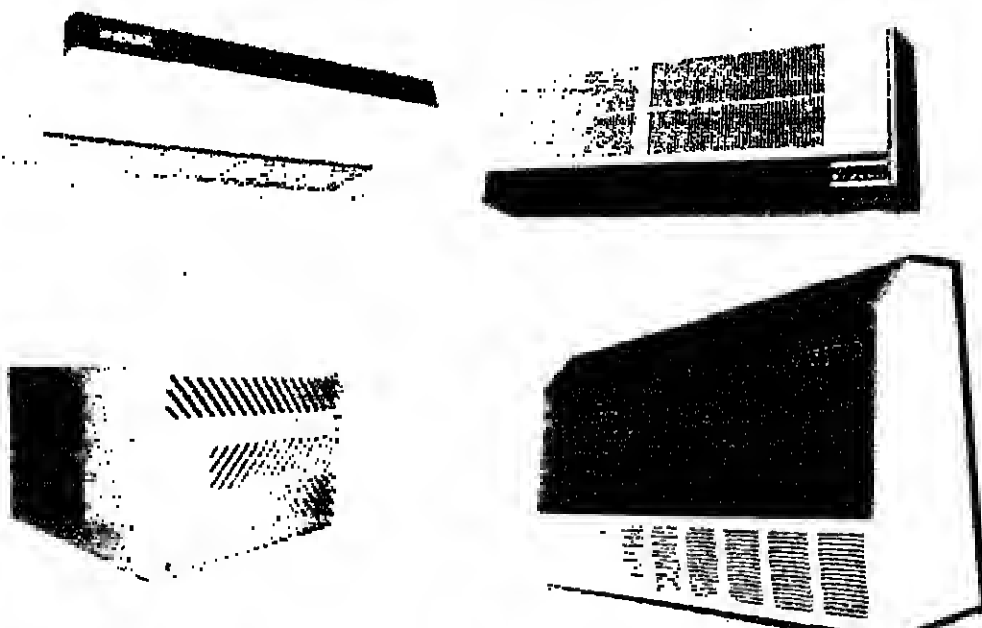
The cards are stuffed into bags and delivered to the Sutton United Football Team Club House, where 30 of Craig's family and friends spend four hours every Thursday night counting between 50,000 and 100,000 cards.

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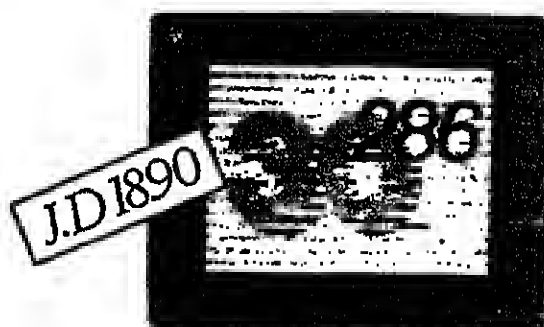


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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

UAE-OPEC dilemma resurfaces

By Eric Hall
Reuter

DUBAI — Iraq is raising pressure on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to cut oil output, bringing to the boil the longstanding problem of having two big oil producers — Abu Dhabi and Dubai — represented as only one member in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Iraq attacked the UAE Friday for undermining attempts by OPEC to reverse a 30 per cent oil price slide by keeping a tight lid on supplies.

The UAE, which has been ignoring OPEC output rules, snapped back that it had honoured a promise at a May emergency OPEC meeting to cut back production, and repeated its demand for a two million barrel per day quota to match its high reserves.

A close aide to OPEC President Sadek Boussena, who is in the Gulf appealing for production restraint, predicted a stormy meeting of OPEC ministers in Geneva July 25 to apportion individual quotas to the cartel's 13 fractious members.

The sharp exchange, however, is only the latest reflection of the problematic UAE position in OPEC which has dogged the organisation for years, Gulf oil analysts said Sunday.

"It is coming to a head now because some members, such as Iraq, are reaching their economic breaking point with low oil prices and if (the problem) continues, OPEC will lose credibility," said one UAE-based Western oil analyst.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, in Abu Dhabi Saturday with a letter for the UAE, said: "A drop in oil prices harms all OPEC members, but the harm is bigger to such an indebted and more populated country as Iraq."

The root of the problem is that the UAE is a federation of seven sheikhdoms, influenced but not ruled absolutely by the federal government in Abu Dhabi, the biggest emirate.

This means, the analysts said, that OPEC Minister Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who presides for the UAE at OPEC meetings but effectively speaks only for Abu Dhabi and as he did Saturday, usually refers only to Abu Dhabi when he speaks of im-

plementing policy.

Abu Dhabi's own oil policy is set by the Supreme Petroleum Council chaired by Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa bin Zaid Al Nahyan. Oteiba is one of the council's 11 directors.

The ruling Maktoum family of Dubai, the second biggest emirate and producer of a high-quality crude, have traditionally followed a liberal economic policy which has included producing at or near capacity of around 400,000 barrels per day (bpd).

NEWS ANALYSIS

The oil analysts estimate Abu Dhabi's sustainable output capacity at around 1.7 million bpd and is presently producing 1.6 million.

The other emirates rely on Abu Dhabi for financial help. They produce no oil, or very little, and their output is not included in the OPEC quota system.

Abu Dhabi and Dubai therefore produce two million bpd between them and it is their combined output which OPEC has always assessed when

drawing up quotas.

Last November, OPEC awarded the UAE an official quota of 1.095 million bpd after Oteiba rejected anything less than two million.

Many oil market analysts are surprised that the UAE has been able to hold out so easily against pressure from fellow OPEC members, especially Saudi Arabia, which wants a leak-proof output pact.

There is no obvious answer but political analysts said that the federal structure itself makes it difficult to target any one emirate as an overproducer, and that historically the emirates have preserved strong-willed independence that has protected them in the often turbulent Gulf region.

UAE analysts said Abu Dhabi believes the OPEC quota should apply only to Abu Dhabi, and should be around par with Kuwait's 1.5 million bpd.

Oteiba has also repeatedly said UAE proven oil reserves, which he said were 116 billion barrels, are second only to Saudi reserves of over 250 billion and thus deserve a higher quota.

Iraq disputes this and says it has the second biggest reserves with over 100 billion barrels.

Other OPEC states also want calculations to take into account the size of population, economy, and historical levels of production, all of which mitigate against the UAE which has a population of only 1.6 million, most of them foreigners.

Abu Dhabi is also upset because it feels it has suffered in the past by trying to keep OPEC agreements, the analysts said.

In 1988, it lost important Japanese customers by keeping to official OPEC prices when other Gulf producers cut theirs. It finally cut prices and raised output. Since then, it has effectively ignored OPEC quotas, the analysts said.

On Sunday, the semi-official Abu Dhabi newspaper Al Itihad carried an editorial close to Oteiba's thinking.

"History testifies to the UAE's sacrifices to OPEC unity and strength. But instead of receiving thanks, we now hear words hurting our country and doubting its defence of OPEC cohesion," the editorial said.

U.S., Japan expect accord after complicated trade talks

TOKYO (R) — The United States and Japan Monday start a final round of trade talks that officials expect to be tough and complicated but to end in agreement.

Negotiators from the two sides will meet at Japan's foreign ministry for the last session of the structural impediments initiative (SII), the end of a year-long exercise to hammer out measures to cut a U.S. trade deficit with Japan that is now about \$49 billion.

The SII has marked an unprecedented exercise in diplomacy, with both countries making proposals for wide-ranging changes in the other's economic system, a process most nations would regard as gross interference in sovereign affairs.

But the interdependence of Japan and the United States has become so great that they have no alternative but to each listen patiently to lectures on economics from the other, economists here said.

Japan has made 80 suggestions on how the U.S. could improve its economy and reduce its trade deficit, while the United States has made more than 200 sugges-

tions on how Japan should open up its markets and reduce excessive consumer and land prices.

The talks are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday but Kabuo Muro, Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) told a news conference Friday that they could drag on into Wednesday. He said that Japan would not sit passively by and just listen to the U.S. side.

"We are determined to get an agreement through in this session," Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said Friday. "Even if the talks are prolonged an extra day, we will finish."

Interim report

The two sides issued an interim report in April that will be the basis of this week's final report.

U.S. negotiators have shown the Japanese side a U.S. draft of the final report. One Japanese government official who has seen it said the draft offers less than the U.S. pledged in the interim report.

In the interim report, the U.S. side agreed to increase spending on education, cut its huge budget

and trade deficits, encourage savings and improve the quality of its work force and product competitiveness.

For its part, Japan agreed to tighten up its anti-monopoly laws, bring high land prices under control and to make it easier to open the large retail stores which import more foreign goods.

"Japan's Fair Trade Commission (FTC) will more actively resort to criminal penalties for violation of the anti-monopoly act," FTC Chairman Setsuo Umezawa promised Thursday.

Umezawa told businessmen Japan, like European countries, has often imposed surcharges against firms that violate the law, rather than resort to criminal penalties.

In 1991, Japan will raise its surcharges, he said.

Japan has also promised to change its foreign exchange law to promote direct investment by foreigners in Japan.

But the talks this week will not be plain sailing.

Japanese leaders have refused to meet a U.S. demand that they target public works spending as a fixed percentage of gross national product (GNP).

Unemployment, inflation cloud German unification

EAST BERLIN (R) — With only a week to go until German economic and monetary union, the prospect of mass unemployment and a price explosion are clouding enthusiasm in East Germany for the "big bang."

Next Sunday, the mighty West German Deutschemark becomes the currency of East Germany and a ruined economy shackled for more than 50 years by central command — first under the Nazis, then under the Communists — faces a no-holds-barred encounter with free-market capitalism.

State subsidies and price controls, which kept East German prices and rents artificially pegged for 40 years, will disappear in a unique experiment in economic metamorphosis.

Officials on both sides of the fast vanishing Berlin Wall believe East German shops, long plagued by shortages and low quality, will suddenly be brimming with attractive Western goods. But who will be able to afford them?

East Germans will cash in their soft currency, lately nicknamed "aluminium chips", at varying exchange rates for hard marks, but latest surveys suggest most will bank the money in anticipation of hard times to come.

Only a third of East Germans swapping their bank accounts into Deutschemarks have applied to withdraw cash, and the average is 800 marks (\$480), less than half the amount available on July 1, reflecting fears of unemployment.

Many are not even sure their employers will be able to afford next month's first hard currency pay cheque.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl said Friday nearly a third of all state-owned enterprises, employing 43 per cent of the industrial work force, was likely to go bust.

Even factories capable of surviving the competition with Western industry face severe liquidity problems and will have to slim down their bloated work force.

The redundancy rate could be even higher among employees of East German local authorities, whose wage will not be covered from Bonn.

Experts in both states expect up to three million of East Germany's nine million workers to be unemployed within a year. Pessimists believe there could be serious social unrest.

The question is whether the crash landing will rapidly make way for a second German economic miracle, similar to the boom which followed West Germany's 1948 currency reform, or whether it will leave an enduring depression with hundreds of thousands more East Germans swarming to the West.

Finding work is likely to be far easier in booming West Germany than in the East for the foreseeable future.

In a bid to protect East German industry, the East Berlin government has imposed an 11 per cent tariff on all imports from the West.

But the tax may simply drive citizens to shop in West Berlin and across the border in West Germany, driving another nail into the coffin of the East German economy.

Soviet oil exports drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union's oil exports dropped nearly 10 per cent last year and U.S. officials have voiced concern about possible disruptions of supply for Eastern Europe and shortages for Soviet residents.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) figures showed the Soviets exported 3.69 million barrels of oil a day in 1989, down from 4.08 million in 1988. A barrel holds 159.6 litres of oil.

U.S. specialists say the decline is almost equal to the drop in Soviet oil production, which they attributed to aging oil fields whose yields are declining, wells that became waterlogged because the Soviets tried to increase production by forcibly injecting wells with water and a lack of funds for explorations of new offshore and arctic circle fields.

Recent labour and ethnic unrest have also disrupted oil production.

The Soviet Union, which uses most of its oil at home, is still the world's largest oil producer. But U.S. government officials say this could change.

"Without Western assistance, production will probably decline dramatically," said one official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Kremlin must make a concerted effort to attract foreign investment in offshore drilling and in technology to salvage wells damaged by years of forced production in western Siberia and other regions, the official said.

U.S. companies are eager to sell their technology and know-how to the Soviets, but most are deterred by bureaucratic red tape and by the difficulties in converting profits from Soviet rubles into dollars.

Furthermore, U.S. and other companies are concerned about making deals with the Soviet Ministry of Petroleum and Gas Industry, which has undergone several reorganisations in the past year as the Kremlin struggles with economic reforms.

U.S. officials are uncertain whether this year's drop foretells a dramatic interruption in supplies to Eastern Europe, or whether such temporary cut-offs previously happened but were unreported by the secretive former communist governments of the Soviet bloc.

So far this year, the Soviets have sharply cut supplies to their one-time Communist allies in Eastern Europe, but they have promised to make up the shortfall by summer.

The U.S. oil industry also has seen a cutback in domestic production in recent years, with aging wells, environmental objections to offshore drilling and weak prices as contributing factors.

U.S. production declined from nine million barrels a day in 1985 to about 7.4 million barrels a day now, while imports rose from 31 per cent of consumption to about 50 per cent.

In 1989 export cuts affected Soviet sales to Western Europe,

surprising analysts who believed the Kremlin was so strapped for cash that it would have reduced supplies to Eastern Europe — which pays for Soviet oil with goods, not money.

U.S. officials are divided, however, on whether future declines in Soviet exports will come at the expense of the Kremlin's newly democratic clients in Eastern Europe.

Eastern Europe, heavily indebted and trying to move from a central to a free-market economy, relies on the Soviets for 70 per cent of its oil.

One U.S. official said Eastern Europe probably can continue to rely on Soviet oil supplies in the short term.

East Europeans might work out an agreement under which they will barter goods for oil at real market prices, rather than the heavily subsidised and unrealistic prices both sides enjoyed in the past, he said.

The Soviets would gain badly needed consumer goods — two-thirds of their consumer goods come from their once-communist allies — and could use the existing network of pipelines to Eastern Europe rather than going to the expense of transporting their oil by tankers, he said.

But others disagree. Hungary, Poland and Romania will probably opt for increasing their trade with Middle Eastern oil exporters rather than pay the Soviets with scarce hard currency, wrote Robert Copaken, a senior political economist.

Peace — British defence industry's greatest enemy

By Nick Louth
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's defence industry is facing its greatest enemy — peace.

Arms orders and jobs are threatened by the end of the cold war and defence companies are struggling to cut their reliance on weapons and traditional battlegrounds quickly enough.

"They've all been trying to diversify away from defence, they've seen cuts coming," said Judy Stewart, defence electronics analyst at Brokers Kleinwort Benson.

The British government's wait-and-see attitude on defence cuts turned into action last week. Treasury slice £600 million (\$1 billion) from military spending. This was an unprecedented refusal to bail out inflation within the Ministry of Defence budget, and reflects changing public perception about Soviet intentions.

"We must ask if this is a precursor to even deeper cuts when the results of the defence review are known," said analyst Chris Tarry at stock Brokerage Kleinwort Benson.

The longer term defence review, or options for change as Defence Secretary Tom King calls it, depends on the outcome of conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks between the superpowers in Vienna.

But no-one doubts that an arms industry used to feast and famine will face less feast and more famine.

For British defence companies, with annual domestic sales of £8.5 billion (\$14.6 billion) and exports of around £3 billion (\$5.2 billion), the outlook is bleak.

The assumption that only fu-

ture programmes were at risk has been blown out of the water. Announcing the cuts, Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark said he was cancelling an order for 33 Tornado strike aircraft which are already being built, saving about £100 million (\$170 million) this year. It is uncertain where the rest of the £500 million (\$860 million) in cuts will fall.

"If anything the stock market underestimated the risk to the arms industry," said Michael Blogg at Brokerage James Capel.

The market reacted quickly to the cuts, trimming £150 million (\$260 million) from the value of defence shares.

The Tornado decision may mean job cuts at British Aerospace (BAE). BAE is part of a consortium building the plane, with Messerschmidt-Boelkow-Blohm, a subsidiary of West Germany's Daimler-Benz AG, and Italy's state-owned Aeritalia SpA.

The news coincided with bad news for British arms exports when General Electric Company Plc's, GEC-Ferranti unit announced plans to shed up to 550 jobs because of a lost U.S. air force order and ferocious competition in defence electronics.

Diversification

Diversification is a key strategy to cope with the vagaries in defence spending, and few pursued it as vigorously as BAE.

In 1980 its sales were 90 per cent military, but by 1988 the growth in commercial airliner orders and the acquisition of car maker Rover had diluted this to 47 per cent. However, 70 per cent of BAE profits are still from military sales.

Jet engine maker Rolls-Royce

Pic is seen as faring better, with a static but profitable military engine business accounting for 25 per cent of sales, and growing civil strength.

But while sales to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members deteriorate other world hot spots offer opportunities for weapons and defence equipment dealers.

BAE and Rolls have big sales in the Middle East, a reliable source of tension, and in emerging South East Asian economies.

But companies with heavy commitments to land-based forces will suffer heavily when Britain scales back its army on the Rhine — fast becoming a post-World War II anachronism.

This clouds the prospects of tank-maker Vickers Plc, plus GKN Plc and United Scientific Holdings Plc which both make a variety of armoured vehicles.

Vickers had hoped for a British army order for 600 Challenger tanks worth £1 billion (\$1.7 billion) by the year end, but is putting a brave face on the consensus this will be halved as Europe looks a less likely battlefield.

"Even a reduced order (of 300) would be six years work, and that's not counting overseas markets which are currently very buoyant," a company spokesman said. Vickers derives 20 per cent of its sales from defence, a figure said it is happy with.

But overall, analysts see cuts overshadowing Britain's defence industry quite rapidly — too fast to allow for a smooth reaction by the companies concerned.

"We're going to see some ill winds blowing, it'll be a bit choppy and bumpy in the industry," said Kleinwort's Tarry.

ECONOMY NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi bank posts nil profit

NICOSIA (R) — National Commercial Bank (NCB), Saudi Arabia's biggest bank in terms of assets, said Sunday it made nil profit in 1989 and set aside hefty loan provisions for the third consecutive year. The privately owned NCB said it cut its provisions by five per cent to 917 million riyals (\$244 million) in 1989. NCB made loan provisions of 965 million riyals (\$257 million) in 1988. It set aside a similar amount in 1987 and declared zero profit for both years. Total revenues grew by 11 per cent in 1989 to 8,907 million riyals (\$2,375 million) while operating expenses dropped 26.6 per cent to 1,095 million riyals (\$292 million), NCB said in a statement. Assets also grew to 86,628 million riyals (\$23 billion) from 79,117 million (\$21.1 billion) in 1988. Bankers said NCB, unlike most of the kingdom's 12 commercial banks, is still grappling with a bad debt problem caused by private sector loans which went sour during the mid-1980s. Most of Saudi Arabia's other banks reported their strongest performance in five years, thanks to a huge influx of funds due to higher oil prices and interest rates in 1989. The newest Saudi bank — former money changer Al Rajhi Banking and Investment Corporation — said its net profit nearly doubled to 1,028 billion riyals (\$274 million) in 1989, compared with 588 million (\$157 million) in 1988. The third wholly Saudi-owned bank, Riyadh Bank, said its 1989 profit declined by 3.4 per cent but was still substantial at 255 million riyals (\$63 million). Seven of the kingdom's nine joint-venture banks reported higher profits in 1989.

Iraq to sign Airbus deal

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is to sign a \$500 million contract Sunday to buy five Airbus passenger planes, Iraqi Airways Director General Nuaidin Al Safi was quoted as saying. European conglomerate Airbus Industrie will supply three A310-300s within two years and two in subsequent years, Al Thawra daily Sunday quoted Al Safi as saying. Iraqi Airways had already chartered two Airbus, he added. A lifting of government travel curbs in January had created a need for more planes, Al Safi said. The restrictions were imposed during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war which halted in August 1988.

Hammadi in Qatar

NICOSIA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi arrived in Qatar Sunday on the second leg of a Gulf tour to discuss stabilising the international oil market, the official Qatari News Agency said. Hammadi arrived from Abu Dhabi where he began his push to get oil producing Gulf countries to halt overproduction and prop up plunging prices. The agency, received in Cyprus, said Hammadi brought a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for Qatar's leader Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani. It said Hammadi's talks with Qatari officials would focus on the need to stick to production quotas set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Oil prices dropped sharply in the last six months from \$21 in January to around \$14 per barrel recently.

Doubt cast on petrochemical project

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday cast doubt on the feasibility of a proposed, \$2 billion petrochemical complex whose construction was promoted by former Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah. Sheikh Ali was shifted to the finance ministry last week in the most important change in a cabinet reshuffle. He held the oil job for 12 years and was replaced by 40-year-old Rashid Salem Al Ameri, a U.S.-educated academic. The eight-plant project was approved in March by the Supreme Planning Council and is expected to come on stream around 1995. It will produce low and high density polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics. The daily Al Rai Al Aam, noting that Kuwait first thought of establishing a petrochemical industry in the 1960s, said: "It is logical to ask why the project was frozen in those days and remained dormant until now..." "Such a project should not be allowed to fail and nobody should gamble with such sums if one is not sure of the project's commercial feasibility," it said in a front-page editorial which also called for further studies of the project.

Lukanov urges adoption of reform

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's Socialist Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov urged the country's newly-elected parliament Saturday to adopt radical economic reforms soon. "The national assembly should lose no time to bring in radical economic reform," Lukanov said in an interview with Bulgarian Television. The Socialist Party (BSP) — the successor to the Communist Party which ruled the country since 1946 — has a majority in the parliament which will meet for the first time on July 10. Lukanov again called for a coalition government.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday, June 24, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	667.0	671.0	118.7 119.4
Pound Sterling	1156.1	1163.0	431.2 433.8
Deutsche mark	398.1	400.5	234.2 236.3
Swiss franc	472.6	475.4	109.8 110.5
French franc (for 100)			54.4 54.7
Dutch guilder			194.0 195.2
Swedish crown			
Italian lira (for 100)			
Belgian franc (for 10)			

HOROSCOPE NOT AVAILABLE

THE Daily Crossword by Len Elliott

ACROSS

- Nasturtium
- Newsman
- John
- dabble
- Blame
- Punctuation mark
- Khayyam
- Skater
- Katerina
- Passé
- Sch. subj.
- Chewy ring
- Out of most
- What prism does light do to light
- "Star"
- Trig function
- Fierce porters
- Desk items
- Bee flats
- Ms. Merkel
- Section section
- Vehicle
- end (over)
- But wood
- Store things
- Topsy's creator
- Imizel
- Er
- Selnes
- Language
- rules
- Vietnam city
- Ship's place
- to Billy Joe
- Titled
- Hangup
- Bohemian
- entertain you
- Halt pref.
- Depot: abbr.
- Amplifiers
- Potato buds

DOWN

- Sway
- Clinched
- Hidden
- WW II craft
- Wall bracket
- Woo
- Old man: Ger.
- Card game
- Kind of radiation
- Fertilizer
- Center and
- Kind of
- Crude metal
- Classifies
- Fleming et al.
- Ready to pick
- Dried dishes
- Broken
- Noble
- Level-headed
- Attired
- Misplace
- Spanners
- Use times
- tables
- Particle
- men
- nothing
- Shelter
- Phobias of TV
- Fly high
- Pasture
- Diving birds
- 50 Places
- Alliance
- ecronym
- 53 Shelter
- Haggard girl

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

HARRIS 5-24

"Because we always bump foreheads when we kiss and then my headache kills the mood."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BROEP

VELED

INJOAD

TUMONT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumble: DRAFT PAYEE WOEFUL ACCORD

Answer: The swimming pool was more than he could afford, and now he's — IN DEEP WATER

دولت اسلامی

Egyptian soccer team gets hero's welcome

CAIRO (R) — Thousands of Egyptians jammed Cairo's international airport Saturday night, dancing and waving flags to welcome home the country's soccer team despite their elimination from the World Cup finals in Italy.

The fans said they would stay up all night if necessary as word came through that the team's plane could be at least three hours late.

"The team has honoured us by their performance... they told the world that Egypt has a football team that was not to be slighted. It is not too much for me to stay up all night to thank them," said Mostapha Ibrahim, an accountant.

"I would not be a true Egyptian if I stayed away just because the team lost... we lost one match, but we gained much more, world respect for our persistence and drive," he added. Egypt qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 56 years but was eliminated when its squad lost 1-0 to England Thursday. The Egyptians had notched up a notable 1-1 draw with the Netherlands and a 0-0 draw with Ireland.

Imad Fathi said he would remain at the airport all night to welcome the team, risking trouble if he did not show up at his army post Sunday.

"The team played better than we expected. The problem is that their good performance in their first match against the Netherlands made us greedy," said Fathi, explaining some disappointment at Egypt's defeat by England.

Thousands of fans waving the national flag shouted "gohari" — the name of the team's trainer — and "God is Great" everywhere they heard a plane land or take off. Car horns blared as young men raced dangerously around the airport.

Other fans danced in circles and many young and old supporters climbed airport roofs for a better view.

Confident Irish manager knows little about Romania

GENOA (R) — Ireland manager Jack Charlton's only concern after leading his side into the second round of the World Cup on their first appearance in the finals is that he has never seen their next opponents Romania in action.

"Can anybody lend me some tapes of Romania playing soccer," he said at a news conference.

"I don't know the first thing about Romania. I've only seen glimpses on television in the past two weeks when they scored — never a whole game. It's the only Eastern European side we don't know," the manager said.

But Charlton, who in four years has transformed Ireland from a talented but uncompetitive side to disciplined winners, said he knew what to expect.

"All Eastern European sides play the same way — with a sweeper, man-to-man marking, and full backs who can push forward. They are also technically gifted," he said.

"But we don't look so much at tactics, but at the other team's way of always moving the ball between certain players. Our style is, in fact, designed to upset teams who play with a rigid pattern — like the Eastern Europeans," he noted.

Charlton, who played in England's 1966 World Cup winning

side, said he had no injury problems after Thursday's 1-1 draw with the Netherlands in Palermo, their third successive draw in the first phase.

"There are a few bruises, nothing serious," he said.

Charlton said he was optimistic about Ireland's prospects in the knockout section of the tournament. "The difficult thing was to get through to the second round. Now we've justified being in the competition. Everything from now on is a bonus."

"We play a cup tie type of game. I wouldn't want to manage the teams who will be facing us," he said.

If Ireland beat Romania they will play either Italy or Uruguay in the quarter-finals in Rome on June 30.

"I look forward to playing Italy in Rome. I like big occasions," Charlton said.

Romanian coach Emerich Jenei showed his players video recordings of Ireland's three draws with the Netherlands, England and Egypt to familiarise them with the long passing and high crosses favoured in British soccer.

"It's a very physical kind of game, with lots of play in the air, but I think we can cope," Romanian team spokesman Ioanitoaia Ovidiu said.

Romania will find it a big change from the neat, accurate passing of Group B, where they finished runners-up after a 2-0 win over the Soviet Union, a 1-1 draw with holders Argentina and a 2-1 defeat by Cameroon which they seem to have got out of their system.

They may have to abandon one of their greatest assets — counter-attacking — to take the game to the Irish.

Romania, in the World Cup finals for the first time since they were eliminated at the group stage in Mexico in 1970, say they have shrugged off political problems back home and a controversy over requests for asylum by about 100 of their fans.

"There are no problems, physical or psychological," Ovidiu said.

Jenei is expected to name the same team that drew with Argentina in their final group match, except for striker Marius Lacatus who is suspended for nine matches following his second booking in the tournament.

Twenty-year-old winger Florin Raducioiu or veteran striker Rodion Camataru are expected to replace Lacatus.

But Romania could dearly miss his skill and speed up front which brought him both goals against the Soviet Union.

Over 1.6m tickets sold for World Cup games

ROME (R) — A record of more than 1.6 million tickets, worth 90.4 billion lire (\$73 million), were sold for the 36 first round World Cup matches, according to official figures released Friday.

The number of tickets sold was nearly 400,000 more than at the same stage of the 1986 finals in Mexico.

The figures showed an average of 45,000 tickets were sold for each match.

The biggest crowds were in Milan where the World Cup opened with the match between defending champions Argentina and Cameroon on June 8. An average of 75,000 tickets were sold for each of the four ties there.

The most popular match was West Germany V. Yugoslavia with nearly 75,000 tickets sold, followed by Argentina-Cameroon with 73,800.

The smallest crowd was at the Yugoslavia-United Arab Emirates game in Bologna where 27,800 tickets were sold.

However, the number of people turning up for many matches has been well below the tickets sold. This has been blamed on the system of selling World Cup seats in books instead of individually.

Large companies have bought many tickets to give to clients as promotional gifts.

Argentina steals victory despite Brazilian mastery

TURIN (R) — Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia stole victory for the world champions with just nine minutes left of their World Cup second round clash with Brazil Sunday.

The fluent Brazilians completely dominated the battle of the South American giants and struck the woodwork three times but marred a great performance with their erratic finishing.

Argentina, who had looked certain to surrender the title they won four years ago in Mexico, scored when captain Diego Maradona broke on the right and squared across goal for Caniggia.

The blind striker, who was unmarked, rounded Brazilian keeper Taffarel to score.

As the match deteriorated into a bad-tempered affair, Brazilian defender Ricardo Gomez was sent off for pulling down Jose Basualdo in the 83rd minute.

It was the first time Argentina had beaten Brazil in four meetings at the last five World Cup finals

and it was the first time Maradona had played on a winning team against a Brazilian side, either at national or club level.

But their 1-0 win was rough justice on the South American champions who took the game to an Argentina side which seemed totally overwhelmed by what was happening.

Maradona himself had looked a forlorn figure as he floated fitfully in and out of the action.

Brazilian midfielder Dunga struck the post with a first half header and Careca and Alemão repeated the trick early in the second half.

The advantage was all on Brazil's side as their fans created a carnival atmosphere in the Stadio Comunale where the 61,381-strong crowd sang samba music and cheered and whistled Maradona every time touched the ball.

But gradually the Brazilians began to get frustrated at their inability to score and at the erratic finishing of strikers Careca and Muller.

Their fluid approach work began to dry up and Argentina became more of a force late in the second half.

Brazil's defeat resulted in their worst World Cup performance since 1966 when they failed to get past the group matches in England.

Yet they came with high hopes of winning the trophy for the first time since 1970 and they emerged from the group as the only team apart from hosts Italy with a 100 per cent record.

It was only the second match they had lost outright in the last four finals, their only previous defeat coming against eventual champions Italy in 1982.

Argentina advance to a quarter-final meeting with either Spain or Yugoslavia but, despite their win, they hardly look like a squad on their way to a second successive World Cup title.

Cameroun boosts African soccer

NAPLES (R) — Cameroun counted the heavy cost Sunday of their remarkable 2-1 victory over Colombia which sent an African nation into the quarter-finals of the World Cup for the first time.

Substitute striker Roger Milla, 38, scored two glorious goals in the second half of extra time Saturday to settle an otherwise scrappy second round match and turn the tournament upside down yet again.

But four players — defenders Victor Akem D'Ip and Jules Onana and midfielders Andre Kana Biyik and Emile M'Bouh — collected second bookings and are automatically suspended for the match against England or Belgium in Naples next Sunday.

"It's a very big problem that they won't be able to play," the West Africans' Soviet-born manager Valery Nepomniachy said.

"But we faced the same situation against Romania and I hope the other players will be able to play well," he added, referring to the Group B match Cameroun won 2-1 despite the absence of two players through suspension. Milla, one of 11 amateurs in the squad, came out of retirement

just before the finals to help Cameroun pull off an extraordinary string of results.

Starting out as 500-1 outsiders, they have easily capped their three draws in three matches at the Spain finals in 1982 when they went out because they had scored fewer goals than eventual champions Italy.

"If we continue to play like this, we should go further," Nepomniachy said.

The coach was modest in victory, saying the players were the ones to congratulate after a dogged performance in a match they almost threw away in a first half dominated by Colombia.

"We should have scored in the first half when we were on top but little by little Cameroun gained in

confidence and we lost our grip in midfield," said Colombian coach Francisco Maturana.

It was certainly Cameroun's night, with a result to beat even their opening 1-0 defeat of holders Argentina.

But they will find it harder without four key players in the next match. Kana Biyik has already served one suspension, missing the Romania match with defender Benjamin Massing after both were sent off against Argentina.

In Milla, however, they have a man who typifies Cameroun's spirit and determination. He has scored two goals in the tournament and his four-goal tally makes him the tournament's joint second highest scorer.

Uruguay worries Italian coach

ROME (R) — Home advantage, an unbeaten record and an embarrassment of top-class players should combine to give Italy a safe passage into the World Cup quarter-finals when they meet Uruguay Monday.

But Italian coach Azeglin Vicini is swift to stress that he will not underestimate Uruguay, traditionally one of Italy's toughest opponents.

"They have a lot of prestige because they have won the title twice," said Vicini, whose side did not concede a goal in winning first-round Group A.

Vicini plans to keep faith with Roberto Baggio and Salvatore

Schillaci, the duo who delighted the nation with their goals against Czechoslovakia in Italy's closing first-round match.

But whether they will play in attack together again, or whether Baggio, the world's most expensive player, will move back to his more accustomed midfield role depends on Gianluca Vialli.

The Sampdoria player, traditionally Italy's most prized striker but off form in recent months, is battling to get fully fit after a thigh injury.

With the tireless Roberto Donadoni unlikely to play because of a knee injury picked up

in Tuesday's Czechoslovakia match, Vicini is still examining how to restructure his midfield.

Winning Group A gave Italy the advantage of staying in Rome's atmospheric Olympic stadium for the second round but the pressure surrounding the home side will help Uruguay, coach Oscar Tabarez said.

"They are the favourites so it's not us who have to win at all costs," said Tabarez who was delighted with his team's 1-0 win over South Korea in their closing group match — Uruguay's first victory in a World Cup finals game in 20 years.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 963 ♥ K1064 ♦ Q6 ♣ QJ64

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 ♣ 1 ♠

What action do you take?

A.—You have too much in high cards to stay out of the auction.

While bidding two clubs won't lead to a disaster, your soft values and lack of distributional assets point toward a no trump contract. Bid one no trump. Don't worry about no spade stopper—partner promised spades with his takeout double.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AKQ7652 ♥ A652 ♦ 6 ♣ 45

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What is your opening bid?

A.—Since partner is a passed hand, you can give up all thought of slam.

You have a magnificent hand offensively, but on defense you might take only one trick. In third position the restriction on preempting with more than one ace does not apply and our choice would be an opening bid of four spades.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J65 ♥ Q107 ♦ AKQ105 ♣ 73

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—There are those who preach that to raise partner's major-suit response you need four-card support. In the words of Sam Goldwyn: "Include us out!" To bid anything other than two hearts is inconceivable. You can't bid no trump with

two suits unstoppered and two diamonds would show a six-card suit while denying heart support.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ KQJ1065 ♥ A J ♠ A ♣ A54

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—We sympathize if you chose to rehid four spades (three spades is a drastic underbid), but we would opt for three no trump. You have a hand that will take eight tricks on its own with every suit stopped. Since it also is balanced, nine tricks could be easier than 10.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 95 ♥ QJ36 ♦ QJ542 ♣ K103

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT 2 ♠

What do you bid now?

A.—You have a balanced hand and the values for game opposite an opening no trump. Jump to three no trump. That doesn't guarantee a stopper in the enemy suit—partner rates to have at least one for the initial action.

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ J72 ♥ Q653 ♦ 98742 ♣ 6

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?

A.—This is not your hand and, even if you buy it, one no trump is unlikely to be your best spot. Bid two clubs, intending to pass any response partner makes. Even a 4-3 spade fit should play better than one no trump.

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Gorbachev challenges military over allegations of weakness

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, hitting back at restive officers of the powerful Red Army, dismissed as baseless allegations that his reforms had lowered the country's defences.

"I cannot agree with those who say we are guilty of neglect and what's more have allowed the weakening of our defences. This simply is not true," he told more than 2,700 delegates at the Russian Communist Party congress Saturday.

Gorbachev was clearly angered after attacks by officers at the conservative-dominated congress who expressed no confidence in Kremlin policies and said Soviet arms negotiators were giving away too much to the West.

The Soviet leader said: "If generals or officers or anyone else makes speeches, criticisms or other shortcomings, this has to be examined. Let someone else get up and say so if he disagrees with me that our defences today are safe."

"We are not adventurers. We will not allow a lowering of the strategic balance."

Gorbachev seemed determined to assert his authority on a day in which he said he would remain as chief of the Soviet Communist

Party because of the "most crucial situation" facing the country. One sharp attack on Gorbachev was made by General Albert Makashov who declared that the armed forces would never accept "ideological surrender." Makashov criticised Soviet troop withdrawals from Hungary and Czechoslovakia and expressed alarm at the unification of Germany.

Other officers denounced the failure to stem anti-military feeling in the independence-minded Baltic republics and accused the Kremlin of doing an about-face on key issues like a multi-party system and the market economy.

Vast cuts in military spending, the mass deployment of troops to quell civil unrest and widespread calls against conscription in the Baltic region and Transcaucasia have fuelled discontent among officers.

Gorbachev criticised the attitude of conservative officers during ceremonies last month marking the 45th anniversary of the

victory over Nazi Germany, saying his perestroika reforms called for a fundamental overhaul of the army.

In his speech to the Russian Communists, representing the Soviet Union's biggest republic, Gorbachev said disarmament accords and the Kremlin's "new thinking" in tackling international problems enjoyed widespread support.

"Comrades, up to 18 per cent of our national income was being spent on the armed forces. Nowhere in the world was there such expenditure," he said.

"Our policy of new thinking is supported everywhere. Not because one man or another was a good president but because no economy, not even the American economy, could support such an arms race."

Meanwhile, the Kremlin has given the United States assurances that Soviet nuclear forces would be safeguarded in case of civil war, a senior U.S. official said Saturday.

He said the administration of President George Bush has had discussions with the Soviet Union regarding the security of their nuclear facilities and forces in the event of civil unrest.

"They are very conscious of that problem... they're aware of the issue. They've told us about it," the official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, briefed reporters aboard Secretary of State James Baker's aircraft en route from East Berlin, where talks on Germany's future were held.

NATO sources in Brussels said Friday that the Soviet Union was withdrawing some nuclear weapons from the Baltic republics, Transcaucasia and eastern Europe because of concern over internal unrest and the collapse of the Warsaw Pact.

The sources, citing U.S. and West German intelligence reports, said security had been sharply increased at all Soviet bases with nuclear weapons.

Republics like Azerbaijan and Armenia have experienced an upsurge in ethnic violence in recent years as social controls were relaxed under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Soviet Union has an estimated 33,000 nuclear warheads.

The U.S. official, pressed on whether Washington was confident Soviet authorities were in firm control of the nuclear arsenal, said, "that's the assurance they give us."

Moldavia declares sovereignty

MOSCOW (R) — The southwestern Republic of Moldavia joined Russia and Uzbekistan Saturday in proclaiming sovereignty over its land and resources and declaring the precedence of its constitution over Soviet law.

But according to one report, the declaration emulated the secession-minded Baltic republics in establishing a separate Moldavian nationality and proclaiming a demilitarised zone in the republic, which borders Romania.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said the Moldavian parliament, divided for some time over the national aspirations of the republic's Romanian-speaking majority, adopted the declaration by an overwhelming majority after a heated debate.

"The declaration proclaims that land, mineral wealth and other natural resources are the exclusive property of the Moldavia SSR," TASS said.

"The declaration envisages the supremacy of the Moldavian constitution and laws throughout the republic's territory. Laws and other acts of the USSR take effect in Moldavia only after they are ratified by the republican Supreme Soviet."

The independent Postfactum news agency said the parliament proclaimed Moldavia "a sovereign state," declared its residents to be Moldavian citizens and outlawed dual nationality. It also said the declaration asked for Moldova's admission to the United Nations.

The Russian Federation, the country's largest and most influential republic, issued a sovereignty declaration earlier this month devised by its radical president, Boris Yeltsin.

Apartheid falling into pieces, Mandela says

BOSTON (R) — Nelson Mandela, making a one-day trip to Boston after a triumphal visit to New York and before his first meeting with President George Bush, declared that apartheid was crumbling.

"Apartheid is falling into pieces," Mandela told a cheering crowd estimated at 250,000 people. "We are on the eve of a great beginning. Indeed, victory is in sight."

"We invite you once more to join hands with us as we walk the last mile together. We have no illusions that this might be the hardest mile, but nothing will stop our destiny."

Still showing no signs of fatigue after three weeks of a gruelling six-week, 13-nation world tour, the 71-year-old deputy leader of the African National Congress danced before and after his speech to the strains of "Free Nelson Mandela," recorded by the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Mandela urged continued U.S. sanctions and said his movement did not seek domination over

whites, a widespread fear among South Africa's five million whites wary that a majority government led by 28 million blacks would overwhelm them.

In a whirlwind tour that took him from the poverty-stricken heart of Boston's black community to the hallowed halls of the John F. Kennedy Library, Mandela was warmly received and expressed thanks to the first U.S. city to divest from South Africa over its apartheid policy of racial segregation.

At a luncheon hosted by Senator Edward Kennedy, leader of the fight in the U.S. Congress five years ago to enact anti-apartheid legislation, Mandela sought to assuage fears that a post-apartheid South Africa would not or could not protect the massive capital infusion rebuilding would require.

"A post-apartheid democratic country will require massive economic and social reconstruction," he said. "But we are sensitive to the fact that investors in a post-apartheid South Africa will need confidence in the stability of the society which they are to build."

7 killed, 35 missing as typhoon Ofelia hits Taiwan

TAIPEI (Agencies) — Typhoon Ofelia was downgraded to a tropical storm Sunday, a day after it slammed into eastern Taiwan with 137 kilometre-per-hour winds, killing seven people and leaving 35 others missing.

Another typhoon remained strong. High wind and heavy rain from Typhoon Percy battered Palau Sunday night, leaving a child dead and knocking out utility service, a newspaper reported. A young boy died Saturday

night when he was swept by rain into mangrove trees near his home in the cluster of islands that comprise Palau, the Pacific Daily News said.

Ofelia was next headed for eastern China.

Taiwan police said the seven deaths were from landslides and drownings in the eastern coast city of Hualien, 200 kilometres southeast of Taipei. The storm had earlier killed at least 30 people in the Philippines.

Contras declare end of civil war

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's contra rebels have formally declared an end to their eight-year war and top rebel commanders will lay down their rifles Wednesday, a government statement said.

The (contra) high command declared the end to the war Saturday.

official Radio Nicaragua.

The contras fought with U.S. backing against the Sandinista government in a war that killed 30,000 people. After the Sandinistas lost power to a pro-U.S. alliance headed by current President Violeta Chamorro in February elections, the rebels agreed to disarm.

Contra chiefs will hand over their weapons in the town of San Pedro de Lova, about 140 kilometres east of Managua Wednesday, the statement said.

"The top military commanders of the Nicaraguan resistance will be demobilised, thus finalising the demobilisation and disarmament of the Nicaraguan resistance combatants," the statement said.

9 soldiers killed in eastern Sri Lanka fighting

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas killed nine soldiers and wounded five in Sri Lanka's eastern province, despite government claims that it had regained control of the area after a rebel push.

A government statement Sunday said guerrillas detonated a landmine at Pulmodai in eastern Trincomalee district the previous night killing nine soldiers and wounding three.

Two soldiers were seriously injured at Veliyaya, also in the east, while clearing a road of mines and other explosives, it said.

In another incident Saturday, two rebels were killed in eastern Ampara in a clash with security forces.

Troops have been fighting the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since the rebels began an offensive two weeks ago in the north and east in their campaign for a separate Tamil state.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said last week that the east had been cleared of rebels and the military would next concentrate on the north, where the guerrillas are strong.

At least 500 people — including rebels, soldiers and civilians — have been killed in the two weeks of violence which began with Tiger attacks on army and police posts and ended peace talks with the government that started in May 1989.

Commenting on reports that the government had secured the east, the rebels said they had retreated into the jungle and would fight on.

"It looks to be turning into a long, drawn-out conflict now," said one Asian diplomat in Colombo.

Soviet plane hijacked to Finland

HELSINKI (R) — A Soviet hijacker who said he had a bomb in his baggage surrendered to Finnish police Sunday after forcing an Aeroflot jet to divert to Helsinki with 76 people on board.

Police said the hijacker, aged about 21, told them he wanted asylum in the United States. He was not named.

Police inspector Pertti Luntala told a news conference it was not clear if there really had been a bomb. Baggage aboard the plane was still being searched.

The Tupolev 134 was on an internal flight from the Estonian capital, Tallinn, to Lvov in the Ukraine, with 72 passengers and a crew of six. All were safe, Luntala said.

The plane landed at 8.13 a.m. (0513 GMT) and the hijacker surrendered to police 35 minutes later, he said.

It was the second time in six days that a Soviet airliner had been hijacked to the Finnish capital.

Another Tupolev 134 was forced to land here last Tuesday after a solitary hijacker threatened the crew with what they thought was a bomb. None of the 54 other passengers and five crew was harmed.

That plane was on an internal flight from the Latvian capital, Riga, to Murmansk in the Soviet far north. Its hijacker surrendered some 80 minutes after landing and asked for political asylum in Finland.

Liberian 2nd port city becomes a ghost town

BUCHANAN, Liberia (R) — As rebels battle government troops near Liberia's capital, the country's second biggest port has been reduced to a ghost town where scraggy dogs scavenge around rusty containers and smashed bery crates.

National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) guerrillas, who are trying to oust President Samuel Doe, routed government troops from Buchanan last month.

The nearby fishing village has also been reduced to a tangle of scrap after government soldiers demolished and set fire to market stalls and tin shacks.

Corpses left rotting for days under the scorching sun and tropical downpours have finally been dumped into the surrounding jungle or burnt.

Teenagers sporting red headbands, automatic rifles and knives stroll menacingly along rutted streets as the narrow railway track, used to carry iron ore from the northeastern Nimba county, fast disappears under elephant grass.

The red flag of the self-styled freedom fighters flies over public buildings, many of them gutted and looted. Wrecks of bright yellow taxis and abandoned vintage Cadillacs line the main street.

Buchanan's red light district looks like a disaster area with its tangles of ripped-open bars, smashed neon signs and seedy night-clubs.

This sprawling city of tin shacks and dilapidated buildings set among coastal mangrove swamps is still under the shock of last month's violence.

The fighting drove many of Buchanan's 90,000 residents into the bush. Others fled later as rebel forces killed wandering traders, a Muslim tribe they accuse of siding with Doe.

But some residents, including many women and children, have

begun walking or hitching back into town after several weeks in the relative safety of a sprawling rubber plantation 35 kilometres outside Buchanan.

All but six of the 32 expatriates have been evacuated from the Liberian Agricultural Company (LAC) plantation, which produces a quarter of the country's rubber output.

Rebels guard the many entrances to the estate, which employs 4,500 workers and has its own hospital, schools and nine-hole golf course, but do not interfere with the work.

Buchanan, only 120 kilometres from the capital Monrovia, is a key outlet for the West African country's three main exports — timber, iron ore and rubber.

Mining and logging virtually stopped several months ago when the rebels, led by Doe's former associate Charles Taylor, invaded from neighbouring Ivory Coast.

The rebels have commandeered almost all company vehicles to ferry fresh troops and ammunition to the front for a final assault on Monrovia.

For the first time in weeks a freighter berthed earlier this month at Buchanan to unload rice, Liberia's staple food, and load rubber under a secret deal struck between LAC and the cash-strapped rebels.

The only supermarket in town left intact by looters is on a tree-lined housing estate at the Limco iron ore terminal. Armed rebel girls guard the goods, including French wine and spirits.

A separate generator keeps air conditioning and lights on 24 hours a day at Limco's English-style clubhouse, left heavily padlocked by departing executives.

"The 100-odd foreigners cleared off so quickly they left half-packed suitcases behind them," lamented Mustapha, the Lebanese barber who has lost the bulk of his customers.

Socialists keep absolute majority in Andalusia

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — Spain's ruling Socialists kept their absolute majority in Andalusia in regional elections.

With 85 per cent of the votes counted Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) was set to take 63 seats in the 109-seat regional parliament, keeping its absolute majority for a third successive term.

Nearly half the southern region's five million voters stayed away from the polls, through the lure of beaches in the warring heat and World Cup soccer.

"There was a lot of heat and a lot of football," a PSOE official said.

The results dashed opposition parties' hopes that voters would punish the PSOE for a corruption scandal involving Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra's brother, Juan, accused of using political influence and a government office to build a fortune.

"I am very satisfied we have won despite the fact that all the other parties and some elements of the media wanted us to lose our absolute majority," Alfonso Guerra said.

The Socialists' main rivals, the conservative Popular Party (PP), launched an anti-corruption crusade over the case but were soon embarrassed by a corruption scandal of their own which led to the resignation of several top party officials.

PP efforts to strengthen their foothold in Andalusia, birthplace of Gonzalez and Guerra and a PSOE stronghold, appeared to have failed. Early returns showed they lost two of their 28 seats in the regional parliament.

National PP leader Jose Maria Aznar said it had consolidated its presence. "In the (October 1989) general elections we had 20 per cent of the votes and now we have around 21 per cent."

The Communist-led United Left Coalition (IU), only one of the top three parties not hit by scandal, suffered the worst losses with a drop of eight seats.

The maverick regionalist Andalusian Party (PA) increased its number of seats from two to nine. PA's charismatic leader Pedro Pacheco said the regionalists had emerged as a major new force in the region.

Despite Andalusia's economic growth, which is above the Spanish average of five per cent, the region remains one of the poorest, with landless labourers scratching a living in remote areas of the interior while Spain's jet-sets relaxes in plush beach resorts like Marbella.

Some of the activists tried to present a petition to the drug company at its temporary booth set up here at the sixth international AIDS conference.

But when no officials showed up to accept the petition, coalition representatives presented their case to reporters.

The coalition called on the drug company to distribute DDC, at no cost, to any AIDS patients interested in volunteering for an informal large-scale test of its effectiveness in combination with AZT.

AZT, made by London-based Wellcome PLC, is the sole FDA-approved drug against AIDS at this time.

But its harsh side effects and the development of AZT-resistant strains of the AIDS virus have prompted scientists to start testing it in combination with other drugs in an effort to lessen its side effects and extend its effective life.

Federal drug law bars the U.S. sale of unapproved drugs. But for other promising ex-

Activists seek wider access to experimental AIDS drug

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — AIDS activists asked the Swiss pharmaceutical maker Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. Saturday to approve wider distribution of its experimental anti-AIDS drug DDC before it gets marketing approval from the government.

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Federal drug law bars the U.S. sale of unapproved drugs. But for other promising ex-

perimental AIDS drugs, the government and the manufacturer have agreed to a so-called parallel track regimen in which the drug is given free to certain categories of patients before approval, while formal tests are still in progress.

The parallel track arrangement was designed by government officials as both a humanitarian gesture for victims of a fatal disease and to gain a greater understanding of how well the drug works.

Among the AIDS drugs that have been tested in this manner are AZT, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co's DDI and Lyphomed Inc's Aerosol Pentamide.

David Barr of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power told reporters that activists had asked for a meeting with company officials to discuss such a programme but had been refused.

The drug maker and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last month approved a new test of DDC — limited to patients unable to tolerate both AZT and DDI — beginning Monday that will expand somewhat the number of patients able to take the drug.

But Barr said the company had put too many conditions on these new tests.

Hoffmann-La Roche is developing DDC under a licence from the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

One DDC trial, which directly compares patients on DDC with

patients getting AZT, is expected to find DDC to be about as effective as AZT with less toxicity, Dr. Thomas Merigan of the Stanford University Medical Centre predicted to conference delegates Thursday.

While scientists at the conference struggled with issues of genetics and clinical studies, Ray Russell-Fell was wrestling condoms onto an air pump.

Russell-Fell, a "rubber technologist" for condom maker London International Group, is one of the big attractions among the commercial exhibitors displaying their wares.

Doctors, researchers and public policy makers, on a break from weighty discussions, flocked around Russell-Fell as he inflated condoms to heroic dimensions to prove their resilience.

"I'd wait just a bit," he told a woman preparing to photograph the phenomenon, "it has a way to go."

The booth is one of four condom makers at the conference, along with nine drug companies, at least 15 companies selling AIDS virus test kits, and a variety of equipment, supply and service companies.

In all, 91 companies are represented, evidence that acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is also a marketing opportunity.

COLUMN

Politician robbed on way to cup match

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — A leading Mozambican politician was robbed on his way to Saturday's World Cup second round soccer match between Cameroon and Colombia, police said. Mozambican Parliament Secretary Marcelino Dos Santos was stuck in a traffic jam on his way to San Paolo Stadium in Naples when a youth approached his chauffeur-driven car and snatched his bag by smashing a rear window. Dos Santos told police the bag contained travellers' cheques and personal effects. They said Dos Santos had refused a police escort when he arrived in Rome several days ago. Dos Santos was a founder member of the Frelimo guerrilla movement which fought for Mozambique's independence from Portugal in the 1960s and early 1970s.

'Zodiac' gunman stalks New Yorkers

NEW YORK (R) — A gunman who calls himself "Zodiac" and apparently patterns himself on a 1950s serial killer in San Francisco is selecting his victims by their birthdays, New York City police say. Four men, identified by their astrological signs, have been shot at close range since early March. None of them have died. The gunman, who claims to be the same Zodiac serial killer who stalked San Francisco, etched the astrological signs of his victims in notes left at the crime scenes and in letters to the media. After interviewing the latest victim, police have warned New Yorkers to be on guard for any conversation with a stranger or casual acquaintance in which the person asks about their birth date.

Ohio town gears up for toilet toss

WADSWORTH, Ohio (R) — Contestants gathered in this small central U.S. town are holding their breaths to see whether the world record for tossing a toilet will be broken at the second annual "Great Wadsworth Ohio Toilet Toss." The local plumber has run out of the porcelain fixtures to meet the demands of 200 contestants, some as far away as Australia, who are preparing for the finale of the four-day event. "You just can't find one anywhere. Everyone's practising," Eugene Kovack, 56, told Reuters. The world record for hurling a toilet was set here last year by local resident Michael Kimmber who threw the 19-kilogramme fixture eight metres eight centimetres. The competition also includes prizes for style.

Sacramento rules out 'manhole' as sexist

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — The city of Sacramento, which has a female mayor, decided the term "manhole" was sexist and has adopted the term "manitance hole" as an alternative. The city council will use the new, neutral term on official maps and documents after adopting it this week. Public works officials originally proposed the search for a non-sexist term for "manhole" in jest, but Mayor Anne Rudin liked the idea. Suggestions, some of them lewd, poured in from across North America as Sacramento debated a new title. Suggestions included "road hole" and "street hole," but one engineer said: "They just don't roll off the tongue the way 'manhole' does." Changing the name will not cost taxpayers a cent, officials said. "Manhole" does not appear on any metal covers on the city's streets.

U.S. to protect spotted owl

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in a prelude to a recovery plan that could halt logging on millions of acres (hectares), cost thousands of jobs and trigger a major battle in Congress. The designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of a threatened species protects the owl under the 1973 endangered species act. The law bans activities that harm chances for a species to recover. The agency said its intent now was to find ways to protect the owl with the least possible disruption to the timber economy in the Pacific Northwest's rain forests — a major supplier to the Japanese market. "The biological evidence says that the northern spotted owl is in trouble," Fish and Wildlife Director John Turner told a news conference. "We will not, and we cannot, ignore that evidence."

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